

**Below are the comments received to the [waterfowlcomments@pa.gov](mailto:waterfowlcomments@pa.gov) email on the proposed 2023-24 migratory game bird seasons.**

1. Would like to see a split for Lake Erie Zone Duck season to extend it a week or two more into January.
2. After hunting in game lands 213 and 214 for the past 45 years and living 1 mile from 214 I have a good bit of knowledge about this area. I'm in the marsh and surrounding area nearly everyday. Through my observations I have a good idea of when the migrating birds arrive and leave. For this reason I would like to see the following changes. One week statewide early October when most of the wood ducks are here. Then reopen for the balance of the season. The best weeks of mallard and black ducks is the first 3 weeks of December. The 2 weeks we have now in late December are iffy with the marshes being frozen most of the time and many of the birds follow the ice line south. If the marsh freezes up we lose 25% of our duck season. I know there are open water areas in large lakes and flowing rivers which aren't the safest places to hunt but these areas are few and far between. I can provide videos of the migration in 214 last year on the second week of December when duck season was closed and a couple thousand mallards arrived. Thank you for providing us a chance to give our input on the sport we live for.
3. I am for this. Lengthening the Atlantic Population Zone Regular Canada goose season to 45 days and raising the bag limit to three geese per day. We always see plenty of geese flying and have some luck calling them in range. My son is a junior hunter who got his first goose this year. We had a great hunt that day and lasting memories. He's been goose hunting twice and he's looking forward to next time. We hunt the late season and would love more opportunities with increased bag limits. As we see plenty of geese in our travels.
4. I propose that our South Zone early duck split be pushed back a week. It always started a week after the North zone. I proposed this last year also. There is no good reason to have us starting the same as the north. The blue wing teal have already passed us. The states that have those seasons such as Delaware, Maryland and Virginia all have those early seasons in September. I see the bluewings when I am hunting geese in September. We don't get any push of wood ducks until later than this early start that you are proposing again. You have referred back to your survey from 2020 and if you look at the dates most requested in the South from October 11 to the 20<sup>th</sup> and the 21<sup>st</sup>-31 got the most hits. Please put us back the way we were for years. I don't know anyone that is asking for anything earlier when it comes to ducks. I hunt duck primarily in Berks and Chester Counties in the South and in Bradford County in the North zone. The species of concern for the early split is wood ducks. I had the worst wood duck season of my life with the dates we had last year and are proposed again this year for the South early split.
5. I think all of your frameworks are good except for your ap zone seasons for Canada geese. We have some of our best hunting towards the end of January when birds have finally pushed down from New York. I have been waterfowl hunting in Pennsylvania for over 20 years and every year the goose hunting is just getting good then the season closes. I would rather see our goose

season for the later segment start December 20th and go until February 3rd. the frameworks state you can go until the 5th of February so this shouldn't be a problem. It would also be better to start the duck season in the south zone December 1st and go until January 31st. I feel this is better as well, because we see and shoot a lot more ducks later in the season as well. Again I feel these dates are better just from seeing the influx of birds while hunting through the whole season. I am not a weekend warrior waterfowl hunter. I am out hunting more then most guys and hope you will take my opinion seriously. thank you for your time.

6. The NW Zone dates closing by Dec 2nd practically guarantees that we won't see any migration. The migration hasn't even happened yet and the bonus week at the end of the month is not really worth hunting. Why is it that the NW Zone goes straight thru to close when both the N and S zones have a split that allows them to hunt into January? Additionally we can duck hunt during deer season but we can't goose hunt. How was that determined? You don't think people could field hunt for mallards? The NW zone has suffered these miserable dates since your survey of 2011. Prior to that we could duck hunt well into Dec and some of us, really miss hunting in later Dec.. Over 30% of duck hunting is used up in Oct. and Oct. that has gotten nothing but warmer since 2015. There is no migration in Oct when it's 75 degrees. Here are the Oct average daily highs and lows since 2015: These were for Erie Pa. 2015- 59/48, 2016- 63/52, 2017 - 65/52, 2018 - 60/51, 2019 - 64/52, 2020 - 61/51, 2021 - 65/55, 2022 - 59/48 It's getting warmer as your scientists will tell you, and we need a later starting date in October, and less Oct. hunting days. See North Zone regulations for guidance. The days of Pymatuning being a waterfowl mecca are over, and have been over for years. It's time to do away with the NW zone and put us in the North zone. I remember talking to Kevin Jacobs, when they first made these dates and he said they would be around for 3-5 years and then change. We are still waiting for those changes. Lastly, I completely disagree with raising the Mallard limit back to 4/day. Last year the Mallards were in dire straights, now, somehow they have rebounded and the bag limit is back to what it was. Either the biologists last year were really wrong in terms of bird count, or they panicked and lowered the limits. Frankly I would leave the limit at two from now on. Besides that it's a rare Pa. day when you can take 4 mallards. I don't know what else to say except thanks for taking this input, from the guys last in line, the guys no one wants to hear from.....the duck hunters.
7. We are in agreement for all seasons but the lake erie zone. We would like to see a split season for that also. Cut out the Deer Season rifle.
8. Waterfowl hunting should be allowed on the sundays that are approved for Sunday hunting. You are allowed to hunt any other species that is in season now during those sundays and other states are allowed to hunt on sundays so this would be a great opportunity to give Pennsylvania waterfowl hunters additional opportunities.
9. As in the past, changes I suggest would be: 1). All of Lawrence and Mercer counties be added to the north west zone; Butler county also if possible 2). Since we are granted the right to a teal season in the Atlantic Flyway, why don't we have one? I don't want to hear the old story about guys can't identify teal from young wood ducks. Patrol it, they'll learn to ID.3). Speaking of wood

ducks, roll back the three per day to two per day until populations in the north west zone rebound a bit. If there are healthier populations elsewhere then restrict only north west and Erie zones. 4). Keep the current mallard bag limits of 2 and 1 and if still permitted move to 4 and 2 per day next season (2024-25), change then. Once again a restriction to the north west zone would be acceptable. If possible, restrict the mallard and wood duck bags in Erie, Mercer, Lawrence, Butler and Crawford counties. (see number 1 above).

10. Hello, I would like to address a few items that are allowed by frameworks. However, are not allowed by the state. To begin; the use of unplugged guns/ extension tubes. In the frame works allowed it states that in early September goose season unplugged guns are allowed by the frame works as well as a 15 bird daily bag limit. A larger bag limit and use of an unplugged firearm would allow hunters to harvest more resident Canada geese that are doing damage to residential areas. Which to my understanding is to control the resident population of Canada geese because they are technically not supposed to be nesting in PA. Secondly; the use of unplugged guns or the use of extended magazine tubes during the light goose conservation order. I believe the conservation season is in place with liberal limits and the use of e-callers to increase harvest rates because of the ecological damage that light geese due to the nesting grounds and the tundra. So why would this not be allowed? It will create higher numbers of birds being taken by hunters. Thirdly; AP and RP goose zones. Why does RP goose have a longer season with more liberal limits. Than the AP goose zone when the AP zone sees more migrating geese? And why is the season shorter? Why could AP and RP zones have the same season? And the same bag limit of 3 birds? Lastly; The process of “jump shooting” myself and others believe that “jump shooting” waterfowl (specifically) light geese. Causes nothing but issues and and unethical/ unsportsmanlike look for “hunters”. From trespassing, shooting in unsafe directions, the wounding of geese to lay, suffer, and die in places. Needs to be addressed.
11. I am in favor of 2 goose AP limit. That is all.
12. The issue I have with this is the boundary was moved down to 358. Our early season is cut short now and limit is only 1 goose. It isn't worth the time to even set up for a single goose.... Mean while eggs are oiled in conneaut and some others areas around there because there are to many geese and the wealthy home owners don't like them...the boundary should be placed back to the Crawford county line....also lake wilhelm is cut in half so as soon as the same geese cross 79 we can shoot 8...they are the same geese so what. Is really being accomplished there? I understand you want geese for the blinds but 1 goose in early season below Crawford county is a joke
13. I am thankful for the opportunity to comment on the 2023 – 2024 proposed waterfowl seasons. I respectfully ask further consideration as to when to establish the split season. There have been reports on social media as well as my own personal experience with confusion as when safety orange is required. The generally available regulation regarding safety orange and waterfowl hunting were confusing during the 2022 season. Additionally there were reports of confusion within the enforcement personnel and hunters regarding this matter. The split season for a zone should occur during the deer firearms season. 1)This would alleviate much of the confusion. 2)

Provide added to safety to both hunters, public and enforcement offers afield. 3) Reduce costs to the commission with regards to editing regulations and defending actions taken when conflict arise. 4) Provide additional opportunities for hunters to hunt different species.

14. As usual, I object to the south zone opener on November 21....it's way to late and the lakes freeze 🧊 and then duck hunting is over...make it earlier...why does the northwest zone get the best dates?... I've complained for years to no avail...and I don't need an explanation...all I know is keeping duck season open to Jan 20 in the south zone is meaningless...
15. Personally, the mallard limit is a must change. As someone who spends 30+ days in the field during duck season, the PA mallard populations have sky rocketed. Days of decoying hundreds and hundreds of mallards are more and more common and we continue to kill bands from Ontario and Quebec each year. Adding an extra week to the Lake Erie zone is also a very good idea. You'll always have opportunities to hunt Lake Erie in January, you don't always have experiences in Oct due to most our birds being bluebills compared to January where all species are on the Great Lakes.
16. I hunt mostly in 5C (Atlantic Population Zone) and did not come across many ducks at all this year. Fewer Canadians than the last couple years it would seem, too. I am no biologist, and I know my friends would disagree, but I support the decision of the GC to limit Canadians to 1 per person per day in my area. The population needs rest. Ducks certainly need rest also.
17. Please see my feedback below: **DUCKS:** The proposed daily bag limit of 4 mallards, not more than 2 hens is too liberal for our Atlantic Flyway mallard population. I live in south central Pennsylvania and the duck numbers have still not bounced back from my observations. My suggestion would be to keep the daily mallard bag limit at 2 or only increase to 3, with not more than 1 hen. **GOOSE:** I propose the use of unplugged shotguns during the early Canada goose season in September. What would be the process in getting the state statute changed to allow this for only the September early goose season? Thank you for the opportunity to submit this feedback.
18. I and my hunting party prefer the option of having 2 separate Saturday Opening for the Northwest and the South Zone. With Family and Kid obligations it makes it nice to have 2-weekend options for the first day of duck season. Northwest October 7th, South October 14th. Also, Will we ever get an early teal season?
19. I am a resident of Pennsylvania with a business address of 7001 Mathers Lane, Ft. Washington, PA 19034. I hunt geese in the Atlantic Zone and am requesting that the season be extended to March 10, 2024 with a daily bag limit of 3 geese. In Ft. Washington, there are a tremendous amount of geese, which are generally considered to be a nuisance. There are few hunting activities in February and March, and outdoors people like myself would really benefit from the extended season. It would give us a reason to be outside and interact with nature. Thank you for your consideration.

20. PAGC, Thank you for welcoming comments on the 2023-24 waterfowl seasons. I am providing comments on the Lake Erie zone, as this is the zone that I focus the bulk of my waterfowl hunting. For background, I have been diver hunting Lake Erie for more than 20 years. I hunt the entire shoreline and open water of Lake Erie and Presque Isle Bay both land and boat. First the positive: I am very much in favor of extending the season dates further into January. I see these dates have been extended another week. I fully support this and would welcome an extension of another week. With the continued yearly warm up, our winters are milder and start later. In the past few seasons, duck hunting on Lake Erie really didn't get good until the last week or two of the season; we need freezing conditions to push numbers of birds to Lake Erie. Next the constructive: I am strongly opposed to the set-up of the scaup limit. Early in the season we get some flights of hen and juvenile lesser scaup. Later in the season we get BIG flights of greater scaup. This is when we can target mature drakes. The PAGC set Lake Erie Zone scaup limits is the only PA zone that has the limits backwards. Surrounding states also set the increased 2 bird/day limit to the latter half of the season. Why would we set the 2 bird/day limit during times when more hens will get shot, if we are concerned about scaup numbers? If we are less concerned about scaup and are just focused on aligning with the Federal regulation, why would we set 1 bird/day limit during the times of peak migration when the bigger male greater scaup are in greatest numbers? I am not a member of the NW Duck Hunters Associate, but I understand that the PAGC dates for the Lake Erie Zone closely follow their recommendations. Please note that the Lake Erie zone encompasses more than the NW DHA managed Presque Isle blinds.
21. Eliminate the october duck season and add it to the end of the current season! The later into the winter the better. I hunt the north zone in bradford county.
22. I am a resident of Pennsylvania with a business address of 7001 Mathers Lane, Ft. Washington, PA 19034. I hunt geese in the Atlantic Zone and am requesting that the season be extended to March 10, 2024 with a daily bag limit of 3 geese. In the surrounding area, there are a tremendous amount of geese, which are generally considered to be a nuisance. There are few hunting activities in February and March, and outdoors people like myself would really benefit from the extended season. It would give us a reason to be outside and interact with nature. Thank you for your consideration.
23. Hunting these geese is a great idea - they are ruining many public areas with the poop everywhere and they are aggressive.
24. It is time to drop the daily bag limits across the board. All of the ducks are gone! Predator control is virtually non-existent and the duck numbers are suffering greatly because of it. All of the focus seems to be on increasing duck habitat but that also increases habitat for the animals that eat duck eggs. With trapping and furtaking numbers down and prices of fur plummeting there have been no checks on the predator populations. There is also a significant increase in birds of prey. Our eagle and hawk populations continue to grow at an unsustainable pace all at the expense of our beloved game animals. How will you address the population control of these predators (raccoons, skunks, opossums, foxes, etc.) and federally protected birds (eagles, hawks,

herons, cormorants, etc.)? It is easy to see why the goose population is growing while the duck population shrinks. Geese are able to fight back against these predators with their size, ducks have no fighting chance. Please consider offering incentives to hunters to control the predator population. As for the birds of prey, their resurgence has been one of the great success stories of the Pennsylvania Game Commission but their numbers must be kept in check or disease and famine will do the job for us. The rabbit population is negligible, stocked pheasants no longer make it to spring, the sounds of grouse drumming in the woods is no longer heard, and frogs (an important indicator species) are disappearing (even with the removal of the July 1st firearm season). We must be stewards of the land and it's creatures without regard for how much money will be made from hunting licenses and duck stamps. Lowering the bag limits may result in reduced revenue but the healthy populations of our wildlife must be the prime directive of our state wildlife agencies. Thank you for taking the time to read my comments.

25. More concurrent duck and geese days would be better for all. A hunter who doesn't go afield for geese may take a few while duck hunting if the seasons were concurrent. I doubt if your liberal bag limits for geese have had the effect you were hoping for.
26. Several of us who have been fortunate to get Goose hunt dates at MC over the past few years have a few comments. First we just love the operation and the staff. They are always upbeat, and cooperative and we appreciate that. Second the Wardens who have checked us that past few years are always professional but we wish they would come either at the beginning of the hunt or end, but we do realize they have all the blinds to check and most will be in the middle of the hunt. Third, two of our group are handicapped and the other two are just old and we love the accessibility of the ONE HC blind you have and would love to see at least one other built in a different location. The MC staff and in particular Lauren have been VERY accommodating for us, and we greatly appreciate the consideration. MiddleCreek and the PGC in general are wonderful operations for hunters and outdoors men and women and we value our time outdoors in Penns Woods and Fields for our favorite activity. Regarding the proposed bag limits..... the bigger the better as long as the species isn't decimated.
27. I'm an avid Canada goose hunter located in southeastern PA/ Atlantic population zone, and I'm writing to express my concern and recommendation for the proposed 2023-24 Canada goose season. First, I am thankful the late season bag limits have been expanded from 1 bird to 3 birds per day (the maximum allowed under the federal framework), and for the dates to be expanded from roughly 1 month to roughly 1.5 months. These changes will give hunters more opportunities to hunt and will grow the interest of the sport for non-hunters. However, I believe the increase in dates is not sufficient and should be expanded further in accordance with the federal framework (as listed below) . The proposed date range should follow the federal proposed framework for the Atlantic population, and should be 10/28 to 2/5, not the proposed dates the PA game commission is proposing. This will allow for more opportunities for harvesting birds while also adhering to federal conservation guidelines and ensuring there is a healthy population of Atlantic Canada geese. The logic for my recommendation is derived from the below facts published by the federal government: <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2023/01/30/2023-01644/migratory->

bird-hunting-proposed-2023-24-frameworks-for-migratory-bird-hunting-regulations 1)The 2022-23 breeding pair population was up to 153,000, exceeding the threshold for moderate harvests by 28,000 breeding pairs. 2)The 2022 survey estimated 164,000 breeding pairs, up 37% from 2019 and the highest since 2016 3)The population has since recovered from its 2017-2020 decline The Atlantic population is healthy and has rebounded in numbers from previous years' declines, and because of that, expanding the hunting season to follow the federal framework's hunting dates is my recommendation. Thank you for the work you do and I'm hopeful the game commission will change the proposed dates to align with the federal recommendations.

28. Just wanted to comment of the upcoming waterfowling season proposals for 2023-2024. I would like to see a continuation of the 1 bird limit, reduced season dates on Atlantic Canada geese.
29. I am a resident of Pennsylvania with a residential address of 1552 Temple Drive, Ambler, PA 19002. I hunt geese in the Atlantic Zone and am requesting that the season be extended to March 10, 2024 with a daily bag limit of 3 geese. In Ambler and the surrounding areas, there are a tremendous amount of geese, which are generally considered to be a nuisance. There are few hunting activities in February and March, and outdoors people like myself would really benefit from the extended season. It would give us a reason to be outside and interact with nature. Thank you for your consideration.
30. I live on a small family farm. Every year, geese raise their young here around our 3-acre lake, graze the grasses of our fields, and stay until their brood is fledged. But even the "early" season that starts in September is not early enough for us to hunt them on our own farm. By mid August the young ones are flying, and they leave our farm. It's harder and harder to find places to hunt. It's a shame that we can't hunt them on our own farms.
31. Please restrict these comments to Canada Geese and Snow Geese. IT IS MY PROFESSIONAL OPINION THAT PGC IS MAKING TERRIBLE MISTAKES! 1. Snow Geese Professionally harvest limit targets should be based on overall ecologic impacts. How can you justify any restriction on snow geese whenever it is well documented their overpopulation, likely caused by man developed habitat in the flyway, is destroying the tundra. PGC's record was made clear when they publicized their big arrest in Middlefork a few years back. Those "violators" should have been given blue ribbons. I realize there is an imbalance between the enforcement element and the biologic professionals. In setting harvest limits only habitat results and public health should be considered. Those are biologic issues that are to be honed in conjunction with national and international agencies. Enforcement staff will willingly enforce whatever is in their manuals. Emotional opinions, ego driven posturing and pacification of uninformed popular "do-gooder" positions should be publicly and openly debunked. That would give the Commission a professional and not a political image. 2. Canada Geese Sorry, I do not have the facts on how to address the distinction between migratory and non-migratory Canada Geese. But, something must be done and the Commission sets both harvest limits and protection status. Why should Canada Geese be protected at all; rats are not. Why must State Parks and municipalities have to close their facilities, why should farmers sacrifice their crops and how soon till the spread of

diseases are traced back to geese because uniformed officers protect them. In making these decisions all those citizens' rights should be balanced against the "Oh they are so pretty crowd." If I were younger I would volunteer to help mobilize opinion to support a more biologically responsible position on these matters. Failing that, could I suggest the Commission overtly reach out to the State Parks environmental unit, municipalities known to you to have geese problems and the Department of Agriculture and Farm Bureaus/Cooperatives. Failing opinions from those normally silent, the "bleeding heart" types will have an outsize influence on harvest limits to which they should not have entitlement (they don't feed the geese nor pay license fees). Just like happened with the original coon strain of rabies, when the Commission makes the wrong decision, the blame comes home to roost. That is best avoided. I am suggesting that all controls be removed from protection of Canadian Geese. If there is a federal restriction issue with the migratory population solve it. Do non-migratory geese have federal protection; should they? PGC is legally charged with wildlife management, not just protection. It is not management to allow populations to get out of control and cause damage to public facilities and threaten public health. I am well aware of the reticence to address these controversial issues with an uninformed emotional public. Reticence is not management. Thank you for personal correspondence. If I can help, holler.

32. As an avid goose hunter for the last 15 years in the AP zone, I've noticed that I normally see a huge influx of new birds at the end of the normal season and for a few weeks afterwards. I would love to see the second split start a week or 2 later, and end in February. I feel that with the current trend of warmer December weather, we get a later migratory push through the area. This usually makes the early/mid December hunts more difficult and leaves me seeing full fields of geese after the season ends.
33. Thank you for proposing realistic harvest limits for the Goose AP seasons!
34. Is the Canadian goose limit going to be raised to more than 1 bird? It seems that in the southeast part of the state there are plenty of birds.
35. I would like to see another year at least for the reduced mallard bag limits, our local birds are severely impacted and mallards are the predominantly seen species. Please also continue with the reduced migratory goose limit of 1 bird per day. Further, it would be beneficial to see a reduced limit of limit for geese in the RP zone of 3 per day.
36. I support the 45 day with a three bird limit!
37. Love the fact that mallards are up to 4 with two being hens but I would like the split in the NW Zone to be Longer so I can hunt more into January. With the Little winter we have been having the birds are migrating Later in the year if at all.
38. I support the proposed USFWS 45 day 3 bird limit for the Atlantic population of Canada geese in Southeast PA



39. Why can't hunters unplug their shotguns for this season as surrounding states allow their hunters to do so?
40. In my opinion the season for Canada goose is way too short and limit is too low.. We have too many geese in southern PA they are a nuisance and very destructive to farmer's fields.. our walking paths, golf courses parking lots and yards are full of their dirt.. Ponds and lakes are contaminated from Canada geese droppings...
41. I recommend keeping the limit of mallards at 2, rather than raising it to 4 as proposed. We do not have nearly as many mallards as habitat provides. I would also recommend raising the late season Canada goose limit from 1 to at least 3, rather than 2 as is proposed. The Canada goose population is very large, particularly in the Lancaster, PA area.
42. Hi my name is XXXX XXXXXXXXXXX and I've guided NY all the way down to MARYLAND witnessing daily what I see and have seen. Here's my opinion from my last 4 months in the field. AP GOOSE numbers are on the rise and majority of those numbers have become lazy with our mild winters causing a large portion of them wintering in NY. calendar birds in Maryland and Delaware are getting thinner and less more each year. However, I do see the numbers increasing over the last two years which makes sense and I'd be happy to see those harvest numbers jump to 2/3 daily again up and down the flyway. Mallard numbers I'm still questioning. I'm not impressed with any numbers there yet and usually the places I've hunted in the past still are where they should be. Pressure related!? I doubt that's an issue related to the source itself so I'm ok with a lower bag limit on that end. Greater snows had a population catastrophe with the cold storms taking out the hatch and made for some tough hunting this year. It was very challenging as our daily average ranged in the mid 30s compared to previous seasons. PROPOSAL: PA September Canada goose, can we go unplugged? populations are consistently on the rise and it's becoming a huge issue. The developing of the state is forcing hunting grounds to get tighter and tighter restricting hunting opportunities. a range finder is almost ~~100~~ % involved in this season to protect the hunter and cover every daily hunt. I feel the number of bagged resident geese could potentially be aided if we unplugged our firearms for this specific season, or limit the unplugged to a 5 shell capacity. What we have in effect right now you and I should agree with is not working in controlling the number of RP numbers. Pretty soon true calendar migratory birds will be non-existent if we don't enforce something (sooner than later) Seasons: if it's at all possible I'd love to see the season start on Thanksgiving (traditional hunting day for all) and add on to the end of the season. Winters are getting milder and milder NY is wintering majority of the flyways birds in my opinion. I think we need to talk to them about the numbers this flyway is wintering because I feel most of our missing birds are up there in the hills. That's my opinion. This will allow us residents here in PA to take those given days from November and add them onto our season in late January. Thanks for your time to hear my voice on this one.
43. The proposed dove season lists 3 split seasons but only two sets of dates. Is this correct?
44. I have waterfowl hunted in PA, MD, NY, Ark., Tx and Calif. for over 45 years. I offer the following comments on the proposed PA 2023-2024 Waterfowl seasons: Duck seasons bag limits - The

bag limits are given as "Maximum Allowed by (Federal) Frameworks". The "Proposed Season Dates" were given for each Zone. When you define the total days in a Zone season WITHOUT setting the bag limits, how can you set a target on desired total kill? They go hand in hand. Atlantic (migratory) goose Proposed Daily Bag Limit - the proposed daily bag limit is 3 per day. The daily limit in adjacent MD has been one and it is proposed to increase to two(2) next season. To allow for a greater migration to the eastern shore, the historical, traditional winter grounds, the PA limit should be the same. thank you for considering my comments.

45. I want to voice my frustration. With the 1 goose regular season it is not even worth it to set up all the decoys let alone pay for the gas to drive to the fields for 1 goose. I do not have the numbers to argue but I'd consider closing the migrant geese season all together for a year if the following year hunters could shoot 2 geese again. Also know there is a difference between resident geese and migrant geese so maybe more time while the migration is flying through we could close that season and after a majority of the migrants have migrated through then a 2 geese limit could be reinstated. I live in Montgomery country and there are geese everywhere, yes I'm aware that a majority of them are residents, but believe more of a semi resident season could be instated without having a significant affect on the migrant population. Also believe the mallards could be increased to at least 3 drakes a day. If there is a problem with the population being low then I believe it would be prudent to protect the hens as the old adage is true "dead hens don't lay eggs".
46. My name is XXXX XXXXXXXX and I have hunted waterfowl in southcentral, PA (primarily the Susquehanna River) for over 30 years. We see far fewer ducks now during our days hunting on the river than in years past. Back in the 1990-2000's and up until about 2011-12 we (2-3 hunters) would typically harvest 3-6 ducks per hunting trip. Now you are lucky to harvest 1-3 per trip. I kept a journal to document our duck hunting trips up until about 10 years ago when the duck population seemed to drop and our hunting success dropped along with it. I think the duck bag limits (especially Mallard hens) should have been reduced 10-15 years ago and we might not be in the situation we are in now with such low duck sightings and low harvest numbers. The duck daily bag limit should only be four ducks or even possibly three ducks per day for a few years to allow populations to rebound. A staple of our duck harvest in years past was Mallard and Scaup (lesser/bluebill), now Mallard numbers have declined and you are lucky to see a Scaup. I have two teenage sons that want to hunt ducks, but it is hard to keep them interested when trips afield result in such limited success. I know hunting is not about how many animals/birds that you harvest, but we just don't see many ducks period during our outings. Maybe it's climate change or maybe the Atlantic flyway has shifted, who knows, but we need to do something to ensure there are ducks for future generations of hunters.
47. Would like to see the early season start a week or 2 later. South zone. Bucks county. Puddle ducks. Early October is like 70 to 85 degrees still.
48. As a long-time northeast PA duck hunter, I would opine that the season ends too early in January. Considering the warmer seasons we've had the last few years, we are not seeing migrating ducks in any real numbers during the late season. Even in colder winters, the Susky

and many of its tributaries offer tremendous late-season opportunities but that is meaningless if we close before the birds get here. Make the mid-season split longer (after rifle deer season) and move back the season closing date as late as the Federal framework allows.

49. I've hunted in surrounding states during their conservation snow goose seasons, and they allow hunters to unplug our shotguns. When will PA allow its hunters to do the same?
50. I may not have all of this correct. If I don't please correct me: >> we have a very convoluted duck hunting reg in Pennsylvania. You are allowed 1 scaup some days, 2 scaup others. Five geese now, 2 geese others. Etc it can be a little confusing and nerve racking when you have birds coming into the dekes under low light at 50 mph. All good. We deal with it. >> where we in Pennsylvania get screwed. Every year. Year in, year out: we are only allowed x number of days to hunt. Days set by federal govt? Unfortunately, we have Sundays included a part of those days limited by feds. How about you stretch our season by all the Sundays we are not legally allowed to hunt. It will give us additional 2 weeks or more in prime time. We already live with a convoluted set of regs. Open and close the season weekly if you have to. Just give us those days as hunting days.
51. South Zone, Adams County, I would love to have more time in the evening end times. Birds always fly when we are cleaning up.
52. I hunt ducks mostly in Northern/Eastern Crawford County PA (not Geneva Swamp) and Southern Erie County. I hunted about 12 days maybe last year for ducks. I was seeing a good flock of mallards in ONE particular area that I hunted out of 7 areas. I shot three greenheads there. I also shot one immature male mallard in Southern Erie County when 6 came in. I saw a total of 6 in Southern Erie County and maybe 30-40 or so in Eastern Crawford County in the aforementioned flock. This is the FIRST year where I saw a good flock of mallards in about 12 years in these out of the way places I hunt. I would like to see more mallards. Upping the limit to 4 total is a poor idea in my opinion from what I've seen in the field in the last decade. I don't have time to goose hunt (as I'm duck hunting and archery hunting and pheasant hunting) but there is no shortage of them in Crawford County. I see them while I'm duck hunting, I see them at every golf course, I see them in Saegertown on the creek, I see them at GL 69, I see them at the Crawford County jail, they are a nuisance. You can't even walk in my friend's yard along French Creek because there is goose sxxx EVERYWHERE. I had a pair try to nest in my WOODS IN A MUD PUDDLE last year.
53. This past season was my 55th and I feel truly blessed. I hunt on the Susquehanna River from Milton to Halifax. Since 2014 I have hunted nearly everyday of the season. I recommend a few changes to the proposed seasons 1) Eliminate the Sept goose season north of Harrisburg. 2) Open 2<sup>nd</sup> part of south zone duck season Nov 14. We miss a lot of the migration and late Jan is subject to freeze ups and hunting paired up birds. 3) Let the mallard limit at 2 or at least only 1 hen.
54. I'd like to see the late season length stay the same as this past season. My 12 year old twins will be 1st year waterfowl shooters this year as well as a cousin of mine that I take along with us. I have been taking them out with us the past 3 years to get them used to it. They are good at setting up decoys and learning spread coverages and blinding in their layout blinds. However I

would like to see the daily bag limit go back up to 2 or 3 per day and lower the early season limits. But no matter what we will still be in the fields. Thank you for listening and service.

55. I would like to provide my support for the proposed 2023-24 waterfowl season structures, specifically for the South Zone Duck and RP Zone Canada Goose. While I do not hunt the Lake Erie Duck Zone often, I would like to suggest the 2/day Scaup limit be evaluated and considered for later in the season. Recent weather patterns seem to have delayed migrations for diver species like Scaup and redheads. Diver hunting is too much effort to warrant a hunt for the chance at 1 Scaup. Lastly, unrelated to the season structures, I would like to suggest the PGC engage the USACE for opportunities to improve waterfowl habitat in the state. The PGC has managed areas of USACE properties for upland and big game hunting. I think there are opportunities to provide waterfowl specific habitat and control water levels at the USACE flood control areas that would benefit migrating waterfowl and may promote hold over of migrating waterfowl. My experience has been that when water levels at the USACE projects are high, the ducks find those areas with fresh food and stick around for awhile, but when water levels drop low again, the food is gone and the ducks leave.
56. My name is XXXXXXX XXXXXX. I believe the northwest duck zone season dates should run the same as the north zone. This is destroying local birds rather than migrators. I also believe that more people than you think get confused on the area they are hunting and hunt out of season in the north zone because of the dates and obviously carelessness. Thank you for your time
57. Thankyou for everyone's hard work on getting our waterfowl seasons and bag limits where we think they should be as hunters I'm from 5b and we see a lot of waterfowl closer to the beginning of February that being said it would be nice to hunt until February 5th. I appreciate all the time spent on everything you do keep fighting for Sunday hunting specially for the spring turkey season . I seen the northeast region is having an open meeting about waterfowl seasons , bags limits and live demonstrations reason saying this having something like that would be nice at Middle Creek wildlife conservation in Lancaster county.
58. Hey Travis its your second cousin XXXXX! Where is the waterfowl proposed season? Hope its moving back up to 2 a day. Hope you and your parents are doing well!
59. The seasons look fine. The change to the PA waterfowl rules that I would like to see changed is as follows: I have hunted the Pymatuning Waterfowl Management areas since I was able to drive. I had done this almost Always as coming up for no-shows and getting in eventually. Now that the locals can get in for no-shows multiple times; I would like to be allowed the same opportunity by being allowed to hunt the blinds at least 4 times. I hunt with the Same three (3) other guys each time one of us wins a blind. However, if two (2) or three (3) of us wins; we have to pick One date only. WHY CAN'T WE HUNT WITH EACH LUCKY DRAWING????? I believe this is only fair – we pay the same For a license and duck stamp. I'm retired and can't afford the cost to drive an hour and a half each way only to be told Sorry. I had previously discussed this with the manager of the Pymatuning Waterfowl area a couple of seasons ago; and he Thought it was a good idea. I also had a letter from the PA Game Commission indicating the code was being re-written and This idea could be a possibility. I replied thanking the person for the letter; and hoped that I'd still be alive to enjoy this Change. I'm now 76 years of age and hope

this change will allow me a couple of visits to the Pymatuning Waterfowl Mgmt. area this coming season. Thanks for the opportunity to make this request

60. First THANK YOU for doing what you do! I do have a concern with the proposed Canada goose limit. Initially ,the limit went from 3 to 2. Then to 1. Shouldn't we step back gradually? Maybe to 2 and an increase in days? I fear to fast of a change isnt protecting the resource.
61. Hello. The main thing I dislike is the proposed mallard limit being raised to 4 again. The mallards in the NW area of the star where I do most of my hunting are just starting to make a comeback again and with the increase to 4 daily it'll knock the local bird numbers back down. If you want to increase it at all why not make it 3 with 1 hen. I see no reason to double it. There are 8 of us that hunt together and we all agree Thanks
62. 1) Goose season closed at Pymatuning for the last seson. Unused blinds. Why? 2) RP increased to 5 but not around Pymatuning. Make that area smaller. 1. 250K spent on new blinds for Pymatuning. If new regulations are started these won't be used to capacity. 2. The one and done policy is not a good idea. No limitation on days hunting there. 15 Days could be OK 3. Using computer system to deal with No-Shows would help. 4. If it is not broke don't try to fix it. 5. Meeting that was held at Pymatuning notes should have been made public.
63. I am an avid waterfowl hunter, even though northwest and southwest Pennsylvania are not in any major Flyway Zones. Duck hunting in this part of the state has its limitations as compared to Eastern PA and other states. Most of the good hunting opportunities are primarily related to Wood Duck hunting on opening days, along with some Teal. Mallard Ducks, along with other Puddler species are limited these days, although some shooting opportunities can be available in the late season when most ponds and lakes freeze over and duck species settle in larger river bodies. I along with other duck hunters that I meet on a regular basis are not happy with the opening dates change made by the PGC. Wood Ducks offer the best hunting opportunities in my part of the state. When the opening dates for the Northwest Zone and South Zone were scheduled a week apart, it gave hunters at least two good days of waterfowl hunting. Especially in the western part of the state. Changing the opening date for the Northwest Zone and South Zone to the same day has now limited those very good hunting opportunities, mainly at Wood Ducks and Teal. In the past, we would head to the Northwest Zone to start the season. We had good shooting around the Pymatuning area. After about two days, ducks get wise and move out or hang around in the Propagation Areas. A week later we head to the South Zone for the duck opener. Once again, we had good shooting opportunities at Wood Ducks and Teal. In about two days, the ducks get wise and move out. I know that I can speak for a lot of fellow duck hunters in my area that we would like to see the opening day for the Northwest Zone and South Zone be separate. Good duck hunting in our part of the state is limited. Having the opportunity to have a few good days was a blessing. Having the opening day for the Northwest Zone and South Zone on the same day was a BAD idea.
64. As a lifelong Pennsylvania waterfowl hunter I would much rather see the South Zone duck season open one week after the Northwest Zone duck season, as it had for many many years up until 2021. So, NW Zone opener 7 Oct and South Zone opener 14 Oct. This allows hunters to

participate in two different opening days and provides exciting duck hunting opportunities that are absolutely the best way to recruit future duck hunters (and sell licenses and federal duck stamps to support habitat improvement). Please take this into consideration, go back to how it was. Thank you.

65. I always enjoyed the opening of duck season being a week apart. I grew up hunting ducks and geese at Pymatuning in the Northwest Zone and then at times get back to the Pittsburgh area and hunt the South Zone, unfortunately the way it has been the last couple of years, we can't enjoy openers in both areas. My opinion would be to make the openers a week apart again. Thanks for listening.
66. I think the south zone early duck season needs to start a week later or we need 2 weeks instead of 1. Where I hunt in Huntingdon County we rarely have many wood ducks that early. They usually show up in good numbers the week after the season closes. The only times we have good numbers that early is if the weather gets cold early up North and they move down early. Like the mallard limit going back to 4.
67. It always seems like every year the Canada geese start showing up more and more in the two weeks after late goose season ends. As a goose hunter, I would be in favor of the late Canada goose season being extended until the latest date allowed by frameworks in the resident population zone.
68. I would love to know the reason for a single goose only allowed during most of the season. Canadian geese are so plentiful and destroying a lot of the habitat let alone defecating all over every public/county walking trails, museums etc.. Whoever is behind that limit needs to be replaced because they (I'm sure a committee) are so far out of touch with reality they are ridiculous ! Get out and look people that are making these stupid decisions !!
69. For the love of me I have yet to understand why areas like Conneaut Lake, Geneva, Atlantic and Meadville get sucked into this 1 bird September goose zone? If you guys want to make Pymatuning 1 bird that's fine and dandy but why are the adjacent areas being ruined? The sport of September goose hunting is a total wash in this area because we have to sit and watch 400-500 bird September feeds in Conneaut Lake for a entire month. Something has to change with these boundaries because the areas just outside in the 8 bird zones are being absolutely pounded and overhunted because thats where everyone is pushed to. The bands were killing in that area in Sept are always from Eastern Ontario so what James Bay geese are being protected? Theyre a majority locals that feed in the same field all September since nobody can afford to go through the hassle to pull the trigger once. I think these boundaries need to drastically shrink on the Pymatuning Management area before this sport is completely ruined in our region.
70. I agree with the proposed seasons except for two points: 1) The mallard limit should be kept at two birds here in Southern PA. Our local and migratory flocks have reduced in number more and more in the past 10 years. If the limit is increased, please keep the limit of hens at 1 hen mallard. 2) The Atlantic Population Canada Goose population is growing larger every year. Increasing the limit to 3 birds is GREAT! However, in most of southern PA, both the resident and migratory birds stay mostly within protected urban settings until January. Extending the season until the

end of January would significantly increase the actual hunting opportunities as birds move northward into more rural settings that can be safely hunted.

71. I live in Lancaster county, AP goose zone, south duck zone. We see birds arrive later and later every year with the current weather trends. I'd love to see these changes. 1) AP geese late season Dec 18- Jan 31 2) South zone duck October 14-21 and Nov 30- Jan 31 3) CO season should start the next legal hunting day after regular seasons close (like it used to) not a week or more after so either dark goose season is open until the same time as light goose regular season or light goose regular season closes earlier with dark geese. 4) No limit for snows and magazine extensions dropping the 3 shell limit. 5) Outlawing jumpshooting snow geese. Time and time again I see it done illegally with zero response from game wardens. Locating babe with a vehicle, shooting inside safety zones, trespassing, road hunting (not 25 yards from vehicle) and collar/ band sniping, are all things I've seen that leave a real bad taste in my mouth about the zero lack of ethics people have when they see white geese. I've also had guys who habitually jump shoot snows call the warden on us with a BS story so they come check us in the middle of the flight in a decoy rig ruining a hunt using a warden to harrass us. 5) Youth day in January or February, not mid November. That time of year isn't good for bird numbers most times. Wood ducks have mostly left and mallards haven't shown up in. I'm red yet. I like putting kids in target rich environments for them to be successful and create future hunters. Shooting a lot keeps them warm but sitting around watching birdless skies doesn't. Even if the temps are more mild in November. 6) I'm happy to see the mallard limit go back up, but I truthfully worry for our resource. We have seen spots that used to be loaded with mallards in years past just not have any birds the past several years. None to be found in other locations either. We used to have several feed fields of 1000 birds but now are lucky to find one of a couple hundred. Duck season is pretty pointless, in our area at least, without good mallard numbers as after early season they make up 99% of what we shoot. We do not see much variety of species at all in PA.
72. I would like to see a no more then 3 mallard per day limit with 2 possible hens, but hopefully we all get limits of green. Seeing a bit better numbers on mallards but not enough that i think we should double the limit! If sundays pop up im all for them!
73. Enjoyed the youtube update this year. Please keep this up. My comments/concerns are; I disagree with the AF councils decision to go back to 4 mallards/day. Numbers are way down from what I see on a daily basis and I can not get behind an increase at this point in time. Please keep running the South Zone as late as possible. Glad to see the RP goose season is running up to the duck close this year. Please keep this up.
74. Hello my name is XXXXXX XXXXXX and I wanted to give my input on the waterfowl seasons in Pennsylvania. This is for the North Zone and Monroe and Pike Counties. Early Season- Oct 7th- Nov 17<sup>th</sup> Late Season- Dec 11th-Jan 6<sup>th</sup> Youth Day- Nov 18th or Jan 13<sup>th</sup> Keep the season in longer for the early season. Have it closed during deer rifle season. The wood ducks are mostly gone by the time it reopens. I know of hardly anyone who hunts ducks in this zone/counties during deer rifle season. Thank you for your time.
75. It has been unfair for years that the South Zone only gets one week to hunt Wood Ducks, it that. It depends on the weather and the Wood Duck migration. One week in October is not enough we need at least the first two weeks of the season as they have in the North Zone to hunt Wood Ducks. It's unfair to the hunters in the south zone to have such a short window to hunt Wood

Ducks. It is very limiting because if the weather is bad, there are no ducks in the South Zone yet. Please consider 2 weeks to start the season.

76. AP goose season proposed Dear sirs, Instead of jumping the gun so to speak, I think it would be more prudent to go to a 2 bird daily limit instead of thinking of license sales and folks that feel that a 1 bird daily limit is a waste of time. Thank you for your time.
77. Two comments pertaining to the Canada goose seasons: I have noticed that in the late (February) goose season I have seen quite a few mating pairs. I'd suggest shortening the February season by one week in order to spare some of these mating pairs so that we potentially have more juveniles in September. In exchange, extend the Sept season to September 30. Another consideration would be to lower the February bag limit to three birds a day (resident zone) and increase the September season limit to 10 birds. Again, with the goal of not harvesting mating pairs.
78. What are you people thinking? Mallard populations in the Atlantic flyway have seen a 30-40% drop over the last 15-20 years, there is a 4 year study going on to try and find out why, and you propose to raise the mallard limit? Why not raise the mallard limit to 6, you can't shoot what isn't there, so a 4 or 6 mallard limit won't change anything. And, yes, I know the state seasons are set by the federal framework. Maybe not having a duck count before setting the season framework isn't such a good idea. Also, the addition of hooded mergansers to the total 5 merganser limit makes me wonder why. Mergansers are not often shot by most hunters, other than from boredom, as they are about the only ducks you see when hunting lakes. And, being pretty much inedible, the dead ones are often just left for the gulls, crows and eagles. I know this, because my lab finds them whenever I hunt a lake. I have hunted ducks in western Pa for the last 58 years and never have seen so few ducks migrating through, and not just mallards. The 6 duck limit is way too generous in my estimation. Even in the days of 3 bird limits in the late 80's and early 90's when populations crashed, shooting 3 bird limit was far easier than it is now, with a 6 bird limit. Also, in the 60's, the limits were only 3 or 4 birds and there were far more hunters then than there are now, so the excuse for larger limits to bring in more hunters and money from licenses doesn't make sense. People have quit and kids have not started, simply because the ducks have disappeared, not just entirely because of other interests, especially kids. I can remember decent duck hunting, and will still go until health or age makes me stop, but what first time hunter wants to spend a day hunting, particularly kids, and maybe only see a few ducks in the distance and never get to shoot at one? That has become a very common experience for hunters in the last 10-15 years. Also, why is the south zone the entire width of the state? The weather is entirely different in the east and west sides of the state. Having a season ending anytime after December west of the mountains is a waste of nearly a month of the total season for anybody hunting in W Pa. My 58 years of records of each season, show an average freeze of western Pa. lakes, swamps and creeks to be mid to late December. Even if there is a thaw in January the initial freeze causes most all ducks to leave, and once they are gone, since Chesapeake Bay is so close, they don't come back. The weather and migration is no different in areas south of the northwest zone than in the NW zone, why doesn't the NW zone extend farther south?



79. North Zone Early Season. Oct 7th-Nov 17<sup>th</sup> Late Season. Dec 11th-Jan6th To me waterfowl days during deer season are wasted days.
80. Setting season dates is probably one of the most thankless jobs you have every year. South Zone duck dates could be October 6,7 and 9 which will include the Columbus Day holiday. Then reopen on November 23rd which is Turkey Day and run till Saturday January 27th. 60 Shooting Days. AP Goose Zone could open on November 23, 24 and 25. Then reopen on December 11 and run till January 27th. 45 Shooting Days. So...this would hit the 3 major Holidays (Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Years day) that allow for the most opportunity for hunters. It also allows for ducks and geese to be hunted at the same time for the longest period available and still stay within the Fed Guidelines.
81. In my area which is york/adams county I experienced what I would call a serious decline in waterfowl. Especially ducks. I hunt various ponds and farms in close proximity to the conewago creek. There used to be a good abundance of mallards in this area. I did not see many at all. There were days out in the field that I didn't see a single one flying. There used to be plenty flying past my house. Between the ponds, the conewago creek and lake meade the birds are gone. Canadians in this area were nothing close to the numbers that it used to be. I don't know if avian flu is to blame but I think any increase in daily harvest would be a mistake. Lowering daily harvest wouldn't bother me. Give the birds a chance to rebound. It's not known how productive this nesting season will be.
82. I would like the goose limit in 5d be more than 1 goose daily.it is a lot of work for1 goose and I know several strict goose hunters did not purchase a hunting liscense due to the ridiculous limit.