Each year the US Fish and Wildlife Service along with the states in the Atlantic Flyway meet to establish federal frameworks for waterfowl seasons. These frameworks form the side boards that each state must set their season within. States can be more restrictive (less days or lower bag limits) but cannot be more liberal (more days or higher bag limits) than the federal frameworks allow.

Generally speaking, frameworks do not vary widely from year to year, but changes in habitat conditions or populations of waterfowl may cause them to change. For 2022-23, there are two changes to the frameworks. First, the Southern James Bay Population (SJBZ) Zone has been eliminated and the area will now be part of the Resident Population (RP) Zone. Also, the hooded merganser bag limit has been incorporated into the 5-bird merganser bag limit.

The following pages document the federal frameworks and the proposed seasons developed by the Pennsylvania Game Commission’s Bureau of Wildlife Management staff. If you have questions or are interested in commenting on proposed seasons you have a few options listed below. Please provide the zone and County/Counties you are specifically commenting on. Please note, the comment period closes March 20th.

- Questions or comments can be submitted to waterfowlcomments@pa.gov or a letter can be mailed to Pennsylvania Game Commission, Bureau of Wildlife Management, 2001 Elmerton Avenue, Harrisburg, PA 17110-9797.

- An online Q&A session will be held on the proposed seasons on March 9th at 1PM on the Pennsylvania Game Commission Facebook Page. A recording will be available afterward.

- A Waterfowl Open House will take place at Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area on March 12th from 12PM-4PM. Attendees will have the opportunity to interact with Game Commission Staff, see proposed seasons presented, and tour habitat work at Middle Creek WMA.
Duck Seasons

Proposed Duck Seasons

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Zone</th>
<th>Proposed Season Dates</th>
<th>Bag Limits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lake Erie Zone</td>
<td>Oct. 31 – Jan. 7</td>
<td>Maximum allowed by Frameworks*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northwest Zone</td>
<td>Oct. 8 – Dec. 3, Dec. 27 – Jan. 7</td>
<td>Maximum allowed by Frameworks*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Zone</td>
<td>Oct. 8 – Oct. 22, Nov. 15 – Jan. 7</td>
<td>Maximum allowed by Frameworks*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Zone</td>
<td>Oct. 8 – Oct. 15, Nov. 22 – Jan. 21</td>
<td>Maximum allowed by Frameworks*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Scaup bag limit shall be 2 for the last 20 days of the season in each zone except in the Lake Erie Zone where it shall be 2 for the first 20 days, the bag shall be 1 during the remainder of the season in each zone.

Frameworks for **Ducks, Mergansers, and Coots**
- Dates: September 24 – January 31
- 60-day season with 1 split (2 season segments) per zone
- Daily bag limit
  - Ducks: 6, including no more than 2 mallards (no more than 1 hen), 2 scaup for 20 days and 1 scaup for 40 days, 2 black ducks, 3 wood ducks, 2 redheads, 2 canvasbacks, 1 pintail, 4 sea ducks (including no more than 3 scoters, 3 long-tailed ducks, or 3 eiders and no more than 1 female eider), 1 mottled duck, 1 fulvous whistling duck.
  - Mergansers: 5
  - Coots: 15

Proposed Youth and Veterans and Active-Duty Military Days
- Statewide Youth Day
  - September 24th
- Youth, Veterans and Active-Duty Military Day
  - Lake Erie Zone
    - October 22nd
    - Northwest Zone
  - December 17th
    - North Zone
  - November 5th
    - South Zone
  - November 12th
- Veterans and Active-Duty Military Day
  - Lake Erie, Northwest, and North Zone
    - January 14th
    - South Zone
    - January 28th
Goose Seasons

Proposed Early Canada Goose Seasons

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Zone</th>
<th>Proposed Season</th>
<th>Proposed Bag Limits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Statewide*</td>
<td>Sep. 1 – Sep. 24</td>
<td>8/Day</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Exceptions Listed Below:

- In the area south of SR 198 from the Ohio state line to intersection of I-79, west of I-79 to SR 358, north of SR 358 to the Ohio state line: the season dates are Sept. 1 – Sept. 10. The daily limit is 1 Canada goose with a possession limit of 3 geese. The season is closed on State Game Lands 214.
- In the area of Lancaster and Lebanon counties north of the Pennsylvania Turnpike I-76, east of SR 501 to SR 419, south of SR 419 to Lebanon-Berks county line, west of Lebanon-Berks county line and the Lancaster-Berks county line to SR 1053 (also known as Peartown Road and Greenville Road), west of SR 1053 to Pennsylvania Turnpike I-76; daily bag limit of 1 Canada goose, possession limit 3; except on State Game Lands No. 46 (Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area) where the season is closed.

Frameworks for Early Canada Goose Seasons (Statewide)

- Dates: September 1 – September 25
- Daily bag limit: 15 geese
- Hunting allowed ½ hour after sunset
- Frameworks allow the use of unplugged shotguns; however, this is prohibited by state statute.

Proposed Regular Canada Goose Seasons

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Zone</th>
<th>Proposed</th>
<th>Proposed Bag Limit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Atlantic Population</td>
<td>Nov 22 – Nov 25</td>
<td>1/Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dec 23 – Jan 21</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dec 12 – Jan 14</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Feb. 3 – Feb 25</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southern James Bay Population</td>
<td>Area incorporated into the Resident Population</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Exceptions Listed Below:

- In the area south of SR 198 from the Ohio state line to intersection of I-79, west of I-79 to SR 358, north of SR 358 to the Ohio state line: the daily limit is 3 Canada goose with a possession limit of 9 geese.

Frameworks for Regular Goose Seasons

- Atlantic Population
  - Dates: October 22 – February 5
  - 30-day season with 1 split (2 season segments)
  - Daily bag limit: 1 goose
- Resident Population
  - Dates: October 22 – March 10
  - 80-day season with 2 splits (3 season segments)
  - Daily bag limit: 5 geese
- Southern James Bay Population
  - Zone incorporated into Resident Population
Proposed Light Goose Seasons

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Zone</th>
<th>Season</th>
<th>Proposed Start/End</th>
<th>Proposed Bag Limit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Atlantic Population</td>
<td>Regular Season</td>
<td>Oct 1 – Jan 28</td>
<td>25/Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Conservation Order</td>
<td>Jan 30 – April 21</td>
<td>25/Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Conservation Order</td>
<td>Feb 27 – April 21</td>
<td>25/Day</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Frameworks for **Light Goose Seasons (Snow Geese, Blue Geese, and Ross’s Geese)**
- Dates: October 1 – March 10
- 107-day season with 2 splits (3 season segments)
- Daily bag limit: 25 geese

Frameworks for **Light Goose Conservation Order (Snow Geese, Blue Geese, and Ross’s Geese)**
- May be open only when all other waterfowl seasons are closed
- Daily bag limit: Unlimited
- Electronic calls may be used
- Hunting allowed ½ hour after sunset
- Frameworks allow the use of unplugged shotguns; however, this is prohibited by state statute.

Proposed Brant Seasons

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Zone</th>
<th>Proposed Season</th>
<th>Proposed Bag Limits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Statewide</td>
<td>Oct. 8 – Dec. 5</td>
<td>2/Day</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Frameworks for **Brant**
- Dates: September 24 – January 31
- 50-day season with 1 split (2 season segments)
- Daily bag limit: 2 brant