

ARKANSAS REGISTER

Proposed Rule Cover Sheet



Secretary of State

Cole Jester

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Name of Department _____

Agency or Division Name _____

Other Subdivision or Department, If Applicable _____

Previous Agency Name, If Applicable _____

Contact Person _____

Contact E-mail _____

Contact Phone _____

Name of Rule _____

Newspaper Name _____

Date of Publishing _____

Final Date for Public Comment _____

Location and Time of Public Meeting _____

2025 Waterfowl Regulation Proposals

Proposal: *2025-26 Special Early Teal Season Dates*

Justification: Blue-winged teal populations dropped to 4.599 million in the 2024 Waterfowl Breeding Population Survey. When the population falls below 4.7 million, federal frameworks call for a reduction in the number of early teal season days from the current 16-day season to a 9-day season. To maximize opportunity, staff propose early teal season to occur the third Saturday in September for 9 days.

Code affected: *B1.02*

Proposal: *2025-26 Pintail Daily Bag Limit*

Justification: There were no changes in the federal framework regarding regular waterfowl season dates and limits (except northern pintail). The federal frameworks allow an increase in the daily bag limit for northern pintails following a new interim harvest strategy adopted by all four Flyways and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. This harvest strategy will be implemented until there has been three seasons with a three bird bag and allow two years to analyze data and conduct a full evaluation of the strategy.

Code affected: *B1.08*

FINANCIAL / ECONOMIC IMPACT STATEMENT

PLEASE ANSWER ALL QUESTIONS COMPLETELY

(Attach additional pages if needed)

DEPARTMENT: Arkansas Game and Fish Commission

DIVISION: Wildlife Management

PERSON COMPLETING THIS STATEMENT: Matthew Warriner

TELEPHONE #: 501-352-0925 FAX #: N/A EMAIL: matthew.warriner@agfc.ar.gov

SHORT TITLE OF THIS RULE: B1.08 – Duck, Coot and Merganser Season and Limits

1. Does this proposed, amended, or repealed rule or regulation have a financial impact?

Yes: No: X

2. Do you believe that the development of a financial impact statement is so speculative as to be cost prohibitive? Yes: X No: If "Yes," please explain: determining the financial impact of the proposed rule is not economically feasible.

3. If the purpose of this rule is to implement a **federal** rule or regulation, please give the incremental cost for implementing the regulation. Please indicate if the cost provided is the cost of the program.

Current Fiscal Year

General Revenue	\$
Federal Funds	\$
Cash Funds	\$
Special Revenue	\$
Other (Identify)	\$
Total	\$

Next Fiscal Year

General Revenue	\$
Federal Funds	\$
Cash Funds	\$
Special Revenue	\$
Other (Identify)	\$
Total	\$

- 4 What is the total estimated cost by fiscal year to any **party** subject to the proposed, amended, or repealed rule? (Estimated cost includes fees, administrative penalties, reporting, record keeping, equipment, construction, labor, professional services, revenue loss, or other costs associated with compliance.) Identify the **party** subject to the proposed rule, and explain how they are impacted.

Current Fiscal Year: \$0

Next Fiscal Year: \$0

Party Subject to Rule: duck hunters

Effect on Party Subject to Rule: The proposed rule will increase the northern pintail bag limit from one to three as permitted by the federal framework.

5. What is the total estimated cost by fiscal year to the **agency** to implement this rule?

There is no additional cost to implement the rule.

Explain the financial benefit to the agency from implementing this rule: N/A

Current Fiscal Year: \$0

Next Fiscal Year: \$0

Financial Benefit to Agency: None

6. Do alternative means exist for accomplishing the objectives of the rules that might be less burdensome to small business? Yes: No: X

Why were such alternatives not proposed: N/A

7. Compare this rule with federal and state counterparts: N/A

B1.08 Duck, Coot, And Merganser Season And Limits

- **1st segment:** the Saturday before Thanksgiving through the first Monday after Thanksgiving
- **2nd segment:** December 10 through December 23
- **3rd segment:** December 27 through January 31

EXCEPTION: Ducks, coots, and mergansers may be taken during the Special Youth Waterfowl Hunt (Code 11.04) and Special Veteran and Active Duty Military Waterfowl Hunt (Addendum B1.15).

LIMITS:

Coot: Daily limit 15, possession limit 45.

Ducks: Daily limit 6. No more than four mallards (no more than 2 of which may be females), ~~13~~ pintails, 1 mottled duck, 1 scaup, 3 wood ducks, 2 redheads, 2 black ducks, and 2 canvasbacks. Possession limit no more than 3 daily limits.

Mergansers: Daily limit 5 (no more than 2 of which may be hooded mergansers). Possession limit no more than 3 daily limits.

LEGAL NOTICE

The regular monthly meeting of the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission will be held beginning at 9:00 a.m. Thursday, April 17, 2025, at the DeGray Lake Resort State Park Lodge's Convention Center located at 2027 State Park Entrance Road, Bismarck, AR 71929. At that time, regulations and business pertaining to the operation of the Game and Fish Commission and other fiscal and administrative matters will be considered and acted upon. Additionally, Committee meetings attended by Commissioners and agency staff members will be held throughout the day on Wednesday, April 16, 2025, beginning at 1:00 p.m. at the DeGray Lake Resort State Park Lodge's Convention Center located at 2027 State Park Entrance Road, Bismarck, AR 71929. All interested persons are invited to attend these meetings.

The Commission meeting on April 17th will be live-streamed and a link for easy viewing access will be available on the agency website. Please visit the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission website at <https://www.agfc.com> for additional up-to-date details as the meeting dates draw closer.

Items on the agenda for the April 17, 2025 meeting will include discussion and/or adoption of proposed regulations that previously were considered at the March 19-20, 2025 Commission Meetings, plus consideration of various Hunting and Fishing Regulations and regulations pertaining to the Enforcement Division of the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, including but not limited to:

- Changing the Special Early Teal Season dates from the current 16-day season to a 9-day season in accordance with the federal framework. The proposed season date change is “the third Saturday of September for 9 days” (Addendum B1.02).
- Increasing the daily limit on Pintails from 1 to 3 (Addendum B1.08).

All persons wishing to be heard on these subjects should submit comments in writing to this office before the start of the April 17, 2025 meeting (preferably by 4:30 p.m. on the day before). Any request to make an oral presentation at the meeting should be submitted in writing to this office on or before April 7, 2025. Copies of any proposed rules or regulations may be obtained at the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission main office and at www.agfc.com, or through a written request mailed to the address below.

If you need assistance to participate in this public meeting due to a disability as defined under the Americans with Disabilities Act, please contact AGFC's ADA Coordinator in Human Resources at 501-382-3813 at least three (3) business days prior to the scheduled meeting to request an accommodation. Every reasonable effort will be made to meet your request.

CHRIS RACEY, INTERIM DIRECTOR
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Little Rock, Arkansas 72205