

**ADVISORY COUNCIL ON WILDLIFE & FRESHWATER FISH
MINUTES**

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 26, 2010
Richardson and Robbins Building Auditorium
89 Kings Highway, Dover, Delaware, 19901
Phone 302-739-9912, FAX 302-739-6157**

ADVISORY COUNCIL

1. Edward A. Montague, Chair
2. J. Richard Berry, Vice Chair
3. Ted Palmer
4. Charles H. Golt
5. Al Townsend
6. Raymond F. Burris
7. Robert C. Nichols
8. Neal Dukes
9. Garrett Grier, Jr.

DIVISION OF FISH & WILDLIFE

1. Greg Moore
2. Pat Emory
3. Rob Hossler
4. David Blaasch
5. Joe Rogerson
6. Jamie Joachimowski
7. Matt DiBona

PUBLIC

19 Visitors

Taped micro-cassettes of this meeting are available for listening at the Richardson & Robbins Building in Dover. For further information contact the Wildlife Section at (302) 739-9912.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Edward Montague at 7:30 PM.

Agenda Item 1. Approval of Minutes (Chairman Edward Montague).

A motion was made and voted unanimously to approve the November 24, 2009 minutes as written.

Agenda Item 2. 2010-2011 Base Waterfowl Season Proposals (Greg Moore).

Wildlife Administrator Greg Moore opened the meeting by stating that the main topic for this evening would be the setting of the 2010-2011 waterfowl seasons.

Mr. Moore introduced staff members Rob Hossler (Program Manager – Game Species) and Matt DiBona (Waterfowl Biologist). These staff members collect waterfowl data and provide a tremendous amount of work in the process of setting these seasons.

Mr. Moore provided a history of the year long process of setting the waterfowl seasons which formally begins with the meeting tonight when the Division provides their draft base season proposals and accept any formal proposals from the public. At the February Advisory Council meeting, there will be continued discussion on these proposals and the season dates will be presented to the Advisory Council with the hopes of their endorsement. Following the February meeting, the staff will continue to collect information from meetings at both the State and Flyway levels. The Technical Section will meet in February and a Management Board Meeting will be held in March. In July there will be both a Technical and a Management Board meeting. These meetings will then finalize the information relative to establishing these seasons. Any adjustments will then be brought to the Advisory Council in August and then the seasons will be sent to the Flyway Council for publication in the Federal Register in September. After that the Wildlife Section staff starts again to begin collecting data for the next base waterfowl seasons.

Mr. Moore discussed the Adaptive Harvest Management which is a decision making process that uses models with biological information which generates the best regulatory package to maximize hunting opportunities and meet biological objectives. This process changes from year to year as new data is obtained.

Mr. Moore provided handouts on the base waterfowl season dates and the Division's human dimension survey conducted last year to gauge hunter preferences for season configuration.

After some discussion, the 2010 – 2011 draft base waterfowl season proposals are as follows:

Dove (70 days) Sept. 1 – Sept. 25
 Oct. 16 – Oct. 30
 Dec. 10 – Jan. 8

Resident Canada Geese Sept 1 – Sept. 25

Early Teal (Division proposal)
Option 1: Sept. 11 – Sept. 29

Option 2: Sept. 10 – Sept. 28

New Proposal by George Williams (audience): Sept. 1- Sept. 18

HOURS: Teal season will be open all day (1/2 hour before sunrise until sunset) in limited geographic areas. These areas are coastal areas from south of the C&D Canal to Lewes east of Routes 13, 113/113A & 1.

There was considerable discussion on the teal season dates and the possibility of expanding the geographic teal zone areas.

Youth Waterfowl Hunt Oct. 16

Rails & Gallinules & Moorhens Sept. 3 – Nov. 11

Woodcock & Snipe Nov. 22 – Dec. 11
 Dec. 23 – Jan. 1

Snipe Nov. 22 – Dec. 11
 Dec. 23 – Jan. 1

Sea Ducks Sept. 28 – Jan. 29
Within designated sea duck zone (not less than 800 yards seaward of Delaware Bay shore or Atlantic Ocean shore).

Ducks (60 days)

Division Proposal Oct. 22 – Nov. 2
 Nov. 22 – Dec. 4
Dec. 17 – Jan. 29

Public Option 1 Oct. 15 – Nov. 11
 Nov. 22 – Dec. 4
Dec. 27 – Jan. 22

Public Option 2 Sept. 25 – Oct. 2
 Nov. 24 – Nov. 27
Dec. 4 – Jan. 29

Coots & Mergansers Same season dates as ducks.

Snow Goose Oct. 1 – Jan. 31
Conservation Order Feb. 1 – April 16

Migratory Canada goose (45 days)

First Proposal Nov. 22 – Dec. 4
Dec. 17 – Jan. 24

Second Proposal Nov. 22 – Dec. 4
Dec. 23 – Jan. 29

Brant Dec. 3 – Jan. 29

It was noted that brant season dates may have to be shortened. If this does happen, it was decided to run the season to the last possible date allowed.

Mr. Moore reminded the Council and the audience that the Division will continue to accept any public comments either by email, telephone calls or correspondence.

Chairman Montague thanked Mr. Moore and his staff for their hard work in preparing an excellent presentation. Mr. Montague also thanked the Division for extending the rabbit season.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Mr. Moore announced that Council Members Neal Dukes and Ted Palmer are serving as members of the Deer Management Stakeholders Advisory Committee.

Mr. Moore also announced that public meetings will be held in February in each county in regards to the Deer Plan. All meetings will be held from 7:00 – 9:00 PM and are as follows:

Tuesday, February 16 – DNREC Richardson & Robbins Building Auditorium, Dover.

Wednesday, February 17 – Del Tech Owens Campus in Georgetown

Thursday, February 18 – Ommelanden Hunter Education Center in New Castle.

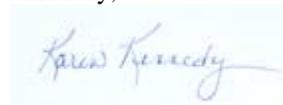
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AGENDA FOR THE 2/23/2010 ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

1. Continued discussions of the waterfowl hunting season proposals for 2010-2011 (Greg Moore).
2. Teal Zone Boundary (Greg Moore).
3. Legislative/Regulatory Update (Director Pat Emory).

There being no further business, a motion was made, seconded and carried that the meeting be adjourned at 8:21 PM.

Sincerely,



Karen Kennedy
Recording Secretary