

**Iowa Department of Natural Resources
Natural Resource Commission**

Decision Item- approved January 22, 2020

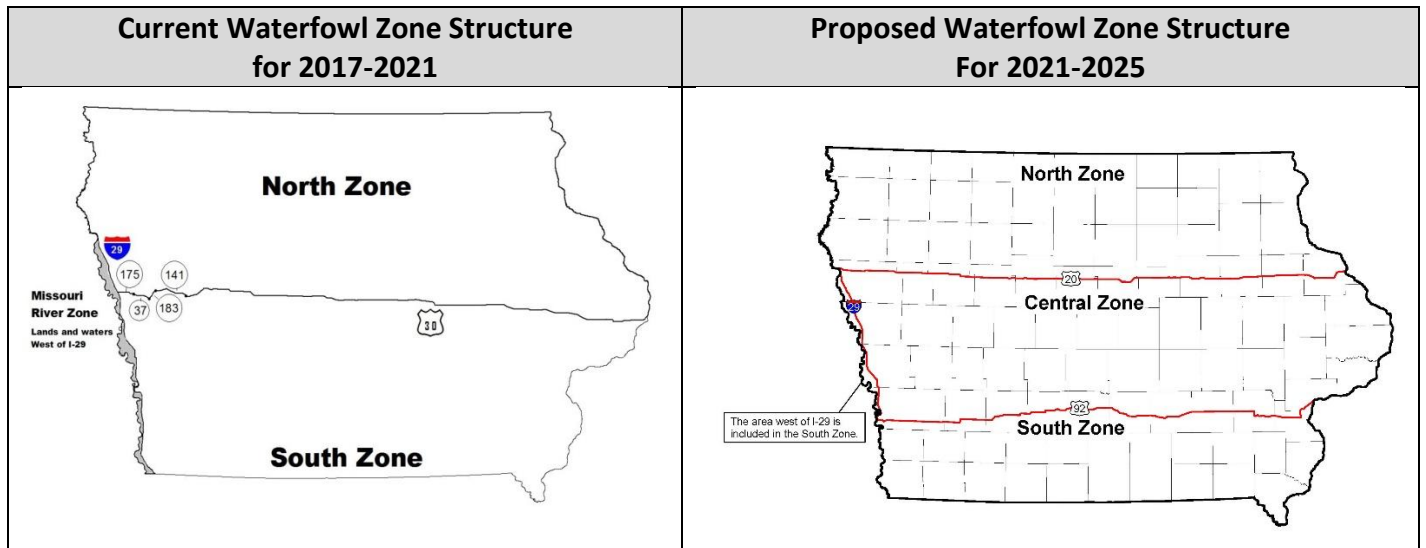
8. Chapter 91, Waterfowl and Coot Hunting Seasons - Notice of Intended Action

The Commission is requested to approve the Notice of Intended Action for Chapter 91, Waterfowl and Coot Hunting Seasons.

Basic Intent of Rule - This chapter contains the regulations for hunting waterfowl and coot and includes season dates, bag limits, possession limits, shooting hours, and areas open to hunting.

Proposed Rule Change - The proposed notice establishes waterfowl hunting zones and season dates for 2021–2025, extends the Light Goose Conservation Order (the USFWS regulation that allows light goose harvesting in the Spring), and specifies the scaup bag limit for 2020.

The proposal modifies waterfowl hunting zone boundaries for 2021-2025 to expand the season dates of the current Missouri River zone across southern Iowa, create a central zone with the season dates of the current south zone, and move the southern boundary of the north zone. This modification expands later season dates across southern Iowa and parts of central Iowa but also maintains the season dates of the current north and south zones across much of their former area.



The proposal extends the Light Goose Conservation Order from April 15th to May 1st. During 2018 and 2019 snow and ice cover has persisted into April in northern Iowa. Extending the season ensures that light goose hunters in northern Iowa will have an opportunity to hunt over open water each spring.

The daily bag limit for scaup in 2020 will be a 45 day season with a two bird limit and a 15 day season with a one bird limit. The proposal specifies that the one bird daily bag limit will occur during the first 15 days of the duck season in each zone followed by 45 days with a 2 bird daily bag limit.

2021-2022 MIGRATORY GAME BIRD SEASONS

	NORTH ZONE	CENTRAL ZONE	SOUTH ZONE
Ducks, Mergansers and Coots	10/02/21 - 10/08/21 10/16/21 - 12/07/21	10/09/21 - 10/15/21 10/23/21 - 12/14/21	10/16/21 - 10/22/21 10/30/21 - 12/21/21
Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days	09/25/21 - 09/26/21	10/02/21 - 10/03/21	10/09/21 - 10/10/21
Dark geese (Canada geese, brant, and white-fronted geese)	09/25/21 - 10/10/21 10/16/21 - 12/07/21	10/02/21 - 10/17/21 10/23/21 - 12/14/21	10/09/21 - 10/24/21 10/30/21 - 12/21/21
Light Geese (white and blue phase snow geese and Ross' geese)	12/11/21 - 01/08/22	12/18/21 - 01/15/22	12/25/21 - 01/22/22
SPECIAL SEPTEMBER CANADA GOOSE SEASONS			
Canada geese	09/04/21 - 09/12/21 Only in designated zones around Des Moines, Cedar Rapids/Iowa City and Cedar Falls/Waterloo.		
STATEWIDE			
Special September Teal	09/01/21 - 09/16/21		
Light Goose Conservation Order (white and blue phase snow geese and Ross' geese)	01/23/22 - 05/01/22 Additional regulations apply		

Todd Bishop, Wildlife Bureau Chief
 Conservation and Recreation Division
 January 22, 2020

Attached: Chapter 91, Waterfowl and Coot Hunting Seasons - Notice of Intended Action

NATURAL RESOURCE COMMISSION[571]

Notice of Intended Action

The Natural Resource Commission (Commission) hereby proposes to amend Chapter 91 "Waterfowl and Coot Hunting Seasons", Iowa Administrative Code.

Legal Authority for Rule Making

This rule making is proposed under the authority provided in Iowa Code sections 455A.5(6)"a", 481A.38, 481A.39, and 481A.48.

State or Federal Law Implemented

This rule making implements, in whole or in part, Iowa Code section 481A.48.

Purpose and Summary

Chapter 91 contains the regulations for hunting waterfowl and coot, and includes season dates, bag limits, possession limits, shooting hours, and areas open to hunting. The proposed amendments modify the waterfowl hunting zones and adjust the season dates to comply with what the Commission anticipates the 2021-2025 federal regulations will be after meeting with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) this year at the Mississippi Flyway Council and reviewing the preliminary proposed regulations contained in the Federal Register (Preliminary Proposed in 84 Fed. Reg. 55120-55129 (Oct. 15, 2019)). The proposed amendments also extend the Light Goose Conservation Order to May 1st and specifies the scaup bag limit.

Fiscal Impact

This rule making has no fiscal impact to the state of Iowa. A copy of the fiscal impact statement is available from the Department upon request.

Jobs Impact

After analysis and review of this rule making, no impact on jobs has been found. A copy of the jobs impact statement is available from the Department upon request.

Waivers

This rule is subject to the waiver provisions of 571-Chapter 11. Any person who believes that the application of the discretionary provisions of this rule making would result in hardship or injustice to that person may petition the Commission for a waiver of the discretionary provisions, if any.

Public Comment

Any interested person may submit comments concerning this proposed rule making. Written comments in response to this rule making must be received by the Commission no later than 4:30 p.m. on March 3, 2020. Comments should be directed to:

Orrin Jones
Department of Natural Resources
1203 North Shore Drive
Clear Lake IA, 50428
Fax: 641.357.5523
Email: orrin.jones@dnr.iowa.gov

Public Hearing

A public hearing at which persons may present their views orally or in writing will be held as follows. Upon arrival, attendees should proceed to the fourth floor to check in at the Department of Natural Resources' (Department) reception desk and be directed to the appropriate hearing location:

March 3, 2020	Wallace State Office Building
12 p.m. – 1 p.m	Conference Room 5E
	502 E 9th Street
	Des Moines, IA 50319

Persons who wish to make oral comments at the public hearing will be asked to state their names for the record and to confine their remarks to the subject of this proposed rule making.

Any persons who intend to attend the hearing and have special requirements, such as those related to hearing or mobility impairments, should contact the Department and advise of specific needs.

Review by Administrative Rules Review Committee

The Administrative Rules Review Committee, a bipartisan legislative committee which oversees rule making by executive branch agencies, may, on its own motion or on written request by any individual or group, review this rule making at its regular monthly meeting or at a special meeting. The Committee's meetings are open to the public, and interested persons may be heard as provided in Iowa Code section 17A.8(6).

The following rule-making action proposed:

ITEM 1. Amend subrules 91.1(1) to 91.1(5) as follows:

91.1(1) *Zone boundaries.* The following zone boundaries apply in the timeframes noted:

a. For the 2020-2021 season, the The north duck hunting zone is that part of Iowa north of a line beginning on the South Dakota-Iowa border at Interstate 29, southeast along Interstate 29 to State Highway 175, east to State Highway 37, southeast to State Highway 183, northeast to State Highway 141, east to U.S. Highway 30, and along U.S. Highway 30 to the Iowa-Illinois border. The Missouri River duck hunting zone is that part of Iowa west of Interstate 29 and south to the Iowa-Missouri border. The south duck hunting zone is the remainder of the state.

b. For the fall 2021 through spring 2026 seasons, the north duck hunting zone is that part of Iowa north of a line beginning on the South Dakota-Iowa border at Interstate 29, southeast along Interstate 29 to State Highway 20 to the Iowa-Illinois border. The south duck hunting zone is that part of Iowa west of Interstate 29 and south of State Highway 92 east to the Iowa-Illinois border. The central duck hunting zone is the remainder of the state.

91.1(2) Season dates - north zone.

a. For the 2020-2021 season. Special September teal season: September 1 through September 16. For all ducks: The first segment of the season will begin on the last Saturday in September and run for 7 days. The second segment of the season will open on the second Saturday in October and continue for 53 consecutive days.

b. For the fall 2021 through spring 2026 seasons. Special September teal season: September 1 through September 16. For all ducks: The first segment of the season will begin on the Saturday nearest September 30 and run for 7 days. The second segment of the season will open on the Saturday nearest October 13 and continue for 53 consecutive days.

91.1(3) Season dates - south / central zone.

a. For the 2020-2021 season – south zone. Special September teal season: September 1 through September 16. For all ducks: The first segment of the season will begin the first Saturday in October and run for 7 days. The second segment of the season will open on the third Saturday in October and continue for 53 consecutive days.

b. For the fall 2021 through spring 2026 seasons – central zone. Special September teal season: September 1 through September 16. For all ducks: The first segment of the season will begin the Saturday nearest October 6 and run for 7 days. The second segment of the season will open on the Saturday nearest October 20 and continue for 53 consecutive days.

91.1(4) Season dates – Missouri River / south zone.

a. For the 2020-2021 season – Missouri River zone. Special September teal season: September 1 through September 16. For all ducks: The first segment of the season will begin the second Saturday in October and run for 7 days. The second segment of the season will open the fourth Saturday in October and continue for 53 consecutive days.

b. For the fall 2021 through spring 2026 seasons – south zone. Special September teal season: September 1 through September 16. For all ducks: The first segment of the season will begin the Saturday nearest October 13 and run for 7 days. The second segment of the season will open the Saturday nearest October 27 and continue for 53 consecutive days.

91.1(5) Bag limit. Bag limits for all species other than scaup are as adopted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and published in the Federal Register. The daily bag limit for scaup will be 1 for the first 15 days of the duck hunting season and 2 for the remaining 45 days.

ITEM 2. Amend subrules 91.3(1) to 91.3(4) as follows:

91.3(1) Zone boundaries. The following zone boundaries apply in the timeframes noted:

a. For the 2020-2021 season, the ~~the~~ north goose hunting zone is that part of Iowa north of a line beginning on the South Dakota-Iowa border at Interstate 29, southeast along Interstate 29 to State Highway 175, east to State Highway 37, southeast to State Highway 183, northeast to State Highway 141, east to U.S. Highway 30, and along U.S. Highway 30 to the Iowa-Illinois border. The Missouri River goose hunting zone is that part of Iowa west of Interstate 29 and south to the Iowa-Missouri border. The south goose hunting zone is the remainder of the state.

b. Effective fall 2021 through spring 2026, the north goose hunting zone is that part of Iowa north of a line beginning on the South Dakota-Iowa border at Interstate 29, southeast along Interstate 29 to State Highway 20 to the Iowa-Illinois border. The south duck hunting zone is that part of Iowa west of

Interstate 29 and south of State Highway 92 east to the Iowa- Illinois border. The central duck hunting zone is the remainder of the state.

91.3(2) Season dates - north zone.

a. For the 2020-2021 season. For all geese: The first segment of the regular goose season will begin the second-to-last Saturday of September and run for a 16-day period. The second segment of the goose season will open the second Saturday in October and continue for 53 consecutive days. The goose season will then close for a 10-day period and shall then reopen on the following Saturday and remain continuously open until the total number of days used for goose hunting reaches 107.

b. For the fall 2021 through spring 2026 seasons. For all geese: The first segment of the regular goose season will begin the Saturday nearest September 23 and run for a 16-day period. The second segment of the goose season will open the Saturday nearest October 13 and continue for 53 consecutive days. The goose season will reopen the Saturday nearest December 13 and remain continuously open until the total number of days used for goose hunting reaches 107.

91.3(3) Season dates – south /central zone.

a. For the 2020-2021 season – south zone. For all geese: The first segment of the regular goose season will begin the last Saturday of September and run for a 16-day period. The second segment of the goose season will open the third Saturday in October and continue for 53 consecutive days. The goose season will then close for a 10-day period and shall then reopen on the following Saturday and remain continuously open until the total number of days used for goose hunting reaches 107.

b. For the fall 2021 through spring 2026 seasons – central zone. For all geese: The first segment of the regular goose season will begin the Saturday nearest September 30 and run for a 16-day period. The second segment of the goose season will open the Saturday nearest October 20 and continue for 53 consecutive days. The goose season will reopen the Saturday nearest December 20 and remain continuously open until the total number of days used for goose hunting reaches 107.

91.3(4) Season dates - Missouri River /south zone.

a. For the 2020-2021 season – Missouri River zone. For all geese: The first segment of the regular goose season will begin the first Saturday of October and run for a 16-day period. The second segment of the goose season will open the fourth Saturday in October and continue for 53 consecutive days. The goose season will then close for a 10-day period and shall then reopen on the following Saturday and remain continuously open until the total number of days used for goose hunting reaches 107.

b. For the fall 2021 through spring 2026 seasons – south zone. For all geese: The first segment of the regular goose season will begin the Saturday nearest October 6 and run for a 16-day period. The second segment of the goose season will open the Saturday nearest October 27 and continue for 53 consecutive days. The goose season will reopen on the Saturday nearest December 27 and remain continuously open until the total number of days used for goose hunting reaches 107.

ITEM 3. Amend subrule 91.3(8), introductory paragraph, as follows:

91.3(8) Light goose conservation order season. Only light geese (white and blue-phase snow geese and Ross' geese) may be taken under a conservation order from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service beginning the day after the regular goose season closes and continuing until ~~April 15~~ May 1.