

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**Fish and Wildlife Service****50 CFR Part 20**

RIN: 1018-AD69

Migratory Bird Hunting; Supplemental Proposals for Migratory Game Bird Hunting Regulations; Notice of Meetings.**AGENCY:** Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.**ACTION:** Proposed rule; supplemental.

SUMMARY: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (hereinafter the Service) proposed in an earlier document to establish annual hunting regulations for certain migratory game birds for the 1996–97 hunting season. This supplement to the proposed rule provides the regulatory schedule, announces the Service Migratory Bird Regulations Committee and Flyway Councils meetings, and describes proposed changes from 1995–96 hunting regulations.

DATES: The Service Migratory Bird Regulations Committee will consider and develop proposed regulations for early-season migratory bird hunting on June 25, 26, and 27, and for late-season migratory bird hunting on July 31, August 1, and 2. The Service will hold public hearings on proposed early- and late-season frameworks at 9:00 a.m. on June 27 and August 2, 1996, respectively. The comment period for proposed migratory bird hunting-season frameworks for Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and other early seasons will end on July 25, 1996. The comment period for late-season proposals will end on September 3, 1996.

ADDRESSES: The Service Migratory Bird Regulations Committee will meet in room 200 of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Arlington Square Building, 4401 N. Fairfax Drive, Arlington, Virginia. The Service will hold public hearings in the Auditorium of the Department of the Interior Building, 1849 C Street, NW., Washington, DC. Parties should submit written comments on the proposals and/or a notice of intent to participate in either hearing to the Chief, Office of Migratory Bird Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, ms 634—ARLSQ, 1849 C Street, NW., Washington, DC 20240. The public may inspect comments during normal business hours in room 634, ARLSQ Building, 4401 N. Fairfax Drive, Arlington, Virginia.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Paul R. Schmidt, Chief, Office of Migratory Bird Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, (703) 358–1714.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Regulations Schedule for 1996

On March 22, 1996, the Service published in the Federal Register (61 FR 11992) a proposal to amend 50 CFR part 20. The proposal dealt with the establishment of seasons, limits, and other regulations for migratory game birds under §§ 20.101 through 20.107, 20.109, and 20.110 of subpart K. This document is the second in a series of proposed, supplemental, and final rules for migratory game bird hunting regulations. The Service will propose early-season frameworks in late June and late-season frameworks in early August. The Service will publish final regulatory frameworks for early seasons on or about August 14, 1996, and those for late seasons on or about September 23, 1996.

On June 27, 1996, the Service will hold a public hearing in Washington, DC, to review the status of migratory shore and upland game birds and waterfowl hunted during early seasons and the recommended hunting regulations for these species.

On August 2, 1996, the Service will hold a public hearing in Washington, DC, to review the status of waterfowl and recommended hunting regulations for regular waterfowl seasons, and other species and seasons not previously discussed at the June 27 public hearing.

Announcement of Service Migratory Bird Regulations Committee Meetings

The June 25 meeting will review information on the current status of migratory shore and upland game birds and develop 1996–97 migratory game bird regulations recommendations for these species plus regulations for migratory game birds in Alaska, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands; special September waterfowl seasons in designated States; special sea duck seasons in the Atlantic Flyway; and extended falconry seasons. In addition, the Service will review and discuss preliminary information on the status of waterfowl as it relates to the development of the regulatory packages for the 1996–97 regular waterfowl seasons. The June 26 meeting will ensure that the Service develops its regulations recommendations in full consultation.

The July 31 meeting will review information on the current status of waterfowl and develop 1996–97 migratory game bird regulations

recommendations for regular waterfowl seasons and other species and seasons not previously discussed at the early season meetings. The August 1 meeting will ensure that the Service develops its regulations recommendations in full consultation.

In accordance with Departmental policy on meetings of the Service Migratory Bird Regulations Committee attended by any person outside the Department, these meetings will be open to public observation. Members of the public may submit written comments on the matters discussed to the Director.

Announcement of Flyway Council Meetings

On July 27–29, 1996, Service representatives will attend the joint and individual Flyway Council meetings at the Adams Mark Hotel in Kansas City, Missouri. Although specific agendas are not yet available, these meetings will begin the afternoon of the 27th and close the afternoon of the 29th.

Review of Public Comments

This supplemental rulemaking describes recommended changes based on the preliminary proposals published in the March 22, 1996, Federal Register. This supplement includes only those recommendations requiring either new proposals or substantial modification of the preliminary proposals. This supplement does not include recommendations that support or oppose but do not recommend alternatives to the preliminary proposals. The Service will consider these comments later in the regulations-development process. The Service will publish responses to proposals, written comments, and public-hearing testimony when it develops final frameworks.

The Service seeks additional information and comments on the recommendations in this supplemental proposed rule. The Service will consider all recommendations and associated comments during development of the final frameworks.

New proposals and modifications to previously described proposals are discussed below. Wherever possible, they are discussed under headings corresponding to the numbered items in the March 22, 1996, Federal Register.

1. Ducks

Categories used to discuss issues related to duck harvest management are: (A) Harvest Strategy Considerations, (B) Framework Dates, (C) Season Length, (D) Closed Seasons, (E) Bag Limits, (F) Zones and Split Seasons, and (G)

Special Seasons/Species Management. Categories containing substantial recommendations are discussed below.

A. Harvest Strategy Considerations

Council Recommendations: In the March 22, 1996, Federal Register, the Service reported on recommendations made by an Adaptive Harvest Management (AHM) technical working group for the 1996 regulatory process. Comprised of representatives from the Service and the four Flyway Councils, the working group was established in 1992 to develop recommendations for improving the regulation of duck harvests. The working group's function is, however, strictly technical in nature.

All four Flyways continued to express support for the AHM approach to setting duck hunting regulations. However, the Mississippi, Central, and Pacific Flyway Councils recommended some modifications to the specific regulatory packages recommended by the working group, and these modifications are identified below under "Season Length," "Bag Limits," and "Special Seasons/Species Management."

The Atlantic Flyway Council endorsed the AHM technical working group's recommendations regarding harvest-management objectives, use of mid-continent mallard population models, and regulatory options for the Atlantic Flyway in 1996.

The Upper-Region Regulations Committee of the Mississippi Flyway Council expressed support for no more than three regulations packages, but recommended a harvest-management objective (objective function) that achieves an equal balance between harvest and a breeding population objective of 8.1 million mallards.

The Lower-Region Regulations Committee of the Mississippi Flyway Council requested the working group investigate the addition of both a more conservative and a more liberal regulatory package to the group of regulations packages offered for the 1997–98 hunting season.

The Central Flyway Council supported the working group's recommendation to modify the objective function so that it continue to reflect the broad resource values of the population goals of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP), but commented that many technical issues will need to be resolved before AHM will be fully operational for multiple stocks of ducks.

The Pacific Flyway Council endorsed the AHM working group's 1996 duck regulations approach and, with the exception of a harvest strategy for

pintails, recommendations for the 1996 regulations process.

B. Framework Dates

Council Recommendations: The Lower-Region Regulations Committee of the Mississippi Flyway Council recommended the AHM technical working group investigate the impacts of a January 31 framework closing date.

C. Season Length

Council Recommendations: In the regulations packages recommended for 1996–97, the Upper- and Lower-Region Regulations Committees of the Mississippi Flyway Council recommended the season length in the "liberal" package be 51 days instead of 50 days. The Central Flyway Council recommended the season length in the "liberal" package be 67 days instead of 60 days.

D. Bag Limits

Council Recommendations: The Upper- and Lower-Region Regulations Committees of the Mississippi Flyway Council and the Central Flyway Council recommended the redhead daily bag limit in the "liberal" package be 2 birds instead of 1.

The Lower-Region Regulations Committee of the Mississippi Flyway Council also recommended the overall daily bag limit in the "liberal" package be 6 birds instead of 5, and within this overall limit, the daily bag limit for mottled ducks be 4 instead of 3; and the limit for ringnecks, scaup, goldeneyes, and buffleheads be 4 instead of 5. Limits for black ducks, pintails, wood ducks, and canvasbacks would be the same as in 1995.

Written Comments: The Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife recommended any "liberal" regulatory package delete the hen mallard restriction in the Atlantic Flyway.

E. Zones and Split Seasons

In 1990, the Service established guidelines for the use of zones and split seasons for duck hunting (Federal Register 55 FR 38901). These guidelines were based upon a cooperative review and evaluation of the historical use of zone/split options. The Service reiterated 1977 criteria that the primary purpose of these options would be to provide more equitable distribution of harvest opportunity for hunters throughout a State. In 1977, the Service had also stated that these regulations should not substantially change the pattern of harvest distribution among States within a Flyway, nor should these options detrimentally change the

harvest distribution pattern among species or populations at either the State or Flyway level. The 1990 review did not show that the proliferation of these options had increased harvest pressure; however, the ability to detect the impact of zone/split configurations was poor because of poorly chosen response variables, the lack of statistical tests to differentiate between real and perceived changes, and the absence of adequate experimental controls. Therefore, the 1990 strategy intended to provide a framework for controlling the proliferation of changes in zone/split options and limited changes to 5-year intervals. The first open season for changes was in 1991 and the second occurs this year when zone/split configurations will be established for the 1996–2000 period.

Council Recommendations: The Flyway Councils made several recommendations on the Service's proposed guidelines on the use of zones and split seasons for duck hunting. The Service published these guidelines in the March 22, 1996, Federal Register.

The Central Flyway Council recommended non-contiguous zones be allowed when supported by adequate justification. The Council also made several recommendations regarding the use of additional days in the High Plains Management Unit. The Council recommended the restrictions "must be consecutive" and "after the regular duck season" be removed from the proposed guidelines. Further, the Council recommended additional days in the management unit be restricted to one split (i.e., two segments).

The Pacific Flyway Council recommended the guidelines for zones allow identical season dates and/or different zoning configurations with different regulatory packages.

Regarding Flyway Council recommendation for specific changes requested by States, the Atlantic Flyway Council recommended the State of Maine be granted a waiver for its proposed zoning option for 1996–2000. The Upper-Region Regulations Committee of the Mississippi Flyway Council recommended the Service approve changes to zone-boundary configurations proposed by Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, and Wisconsin for the 1996–2000 period. The Central Flyway Council recommended the Service approve Nebraska's duck hunting zone proposal. The Pacific Flyway Council recommended the Service approve duck zone changes in Arizona, Nevada, Oregon, and Utah for the 1996–2000 period.

Written Comments: The Nebraska Game and Parks Commission and the

Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks recommended the restrictions "must be consecutive" and "after the regular duck season" be removed from the proposed guidelines on the use of additional days in the High Plains Management Unit. Both noted these requirements were new and seemed unnecessary.

The Nebraska Game and Parks Commission recommended the addition of a provision allowing the use of non-contiguous zones when supported by strong justification. The Wyoming Game and Fish Department also requested a variance from the contiguous-boundary criterion, stating that the current zoning guidelines do not seem to contain the flexibility needed to address the considerable variation in hunting opportunity associated with the diverse physiographic regions found in many Rocky Mountain States.

Service Response: For the 1996 open season, the Service proposed in the March 22, 1996, Federal Register use of the existing 1990 guidelines, with an exception for the handling of special management units. The Service proposed to delete the following provision from the 1990 guidelines:

Special Management Unit Limitation: Within existing Flyway boundaries, States may not zone and/or use a 3-way split season simultaneously within a special management unit and the remainder of the State.

The Service proposed this change with the understanding that the additional days allowed for a management unit must be consecutive and, for the Central Flyway, be held both after the Saturday nearest December 10 and after the regular duck season. While the Service continues to support this proposed change, based on preliminary comments, the Service is now proposing an additional special provision for management units: For the States that have a recognized management unit and include a non-management unit portion, an independent 2-way split season with no zones can be selected for the management unit. The remainder of the State in the non-management unit portion can be zoned/split according to existing guidelines.

Regarding the Central Flyway Council recommendation that the criteria "must be consecutive" and "after the regular duck season" be removed from the guidelines on the use of additional High Plains Management Unit days, the Service reviewed the justification provided and believes that restrictions regarding the use of additional days should remain as proposed.

Regarding Flyway Council recommendations to alter the definition and interpretation of a "zone" that would allow the establishment of hunting areas with non-contiguous boundaries or concurrent seasons, the Service has reviewed the rationale provided with the recommendations and believes that the definition/interpretations previously used are still appropriate. The requirement for contiguous boundaries for zones and different season dates among zones supports a primary objective of the guidelines for selecting zones/split seasons for duck hunting, which is to improve stability in hunting regimes. If concurrent seasons among zones were allowed, States would in effect have the option to either zone or not zone. With respect to non-contiguous boundaries, the Service believes that the current guidelines allow States sufficient flexibility to address differences in physiography, climate, etc. within a State. Allowing either of these exceptions in interpretation could further confound our ability to regulate and evaluate overall harvest pressure on ducks.

The following zone/split-season guidelines apply only for the *regular* duck season and include several definitions and interpretations developed in response to questions during and following the first open season in 1991. For clarification, these are reiterated:

1. A zone is a geographic area or portion of a State, with a contiguous boundary, for which independent dates (at least 1 day difference) can be selected for the regular duck season.

2. Consideration of changes for management-unit boundaries are not subject to the guidelines and provisions governing the use of zones and split seasons for ducks.

3. Only minor (less than a county in size) boundary changes will be allowed for any grandfather arrangement, and changes are limited to the open season.

4. Any State may change its zone/split arrangement to the Basic Option at any time during the 5 years between open seasons. If such a change is made, the Basic Option must be continued for the remainder of the 5-year period.

For the 1996–2000 period, any State may continue the configuration used in 1991–1995. If changes are made, the zone/split-season configuration must conform to one of the following options:

1. **Basic Option:** The Basic Option, available at any time to any State, would allow the regular duck season to be split into two segments with no zones.

2. **Alternative Options:** Where the Basic Option is deemed undesirable, States may choose one of the following:

- a. No more than three zones with no splits,
- b. A 3-way split with no zones, or
- c. Two zones with the option for 2-way split seasons in one or both zones.

At the end of 5 years after any changes in splits or zones (except conversions to the Basic Option), States will be required to provide the Service with a review of pertinent data (e.g., estimates of harvest, hunter numbers, hunter success, etc.). This review does not have to be the result of a rigorous experimental design, but nonetheless should assist the Service in ascertaining whether major undesirable changes in harvest or hunter activity occurred as a result of split and zone regulations. The next open season for changes in zone/split configurations will be 2001.

Using the above revised guidelines, the Service reviewed specific proposals for zoning changes submitted to date, including those recommended by the Flyway Councils and those proposed by the various States. Proposals by the States of Arizona, Illinois, Kentucky, Maine (boundary change), Michigan, Mississippi, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, and Wisconsin were within the established guidelines and are approved for the 1996–2000 period. Proposals by the States of Indiana, Kansas, Maine (creation of third zone), and Wyoming did not comply with the revised guidelines and the Service requests these States revise their proposals accordingly.

Regarding Nebraska's proposed zoning plan, the Service does not support the Central Flyway Council's recommendation that would allow a variance to Nebraska or any other State for establishment of non-contiguous zone boundaries. The use of "early" and "late" zones in the Low Plains portion of Nebraska during 1991–95 is clearly outside the established guidelines, but was allowed (1991–95) under the grandfather clause. In the event that this arrangement is now unacceptable, Nebraska must use the guidelines provided above to establish a zone/split configuration for the 1996–2000 period. Under the grandfather arrangement, minor boundary changes are allowed and Nebraska's proposed Low Plains zone boundary changes would be acceptable.

F. Special Seasons/Species Management

i. Canvasbacks

Council Recommendations: The Lower-Region Regulations Committee of the Mississippi Flyway Council

recommended canvasback regulations fluctuate within the regulations packages commensurate with model predictions, breeding-population indices, and habitat conditions.

ii. Pintails

Council Recommendations: The Central Flyway Council recommended a harvest strategy for pintails based on the breeding population size. The pintail daily bag limit would be 1 with a pintail breeding population below 3.0 million; 2 with a breeding population between 3.0 and 4.5 million; 3 with a breeding population between 4.5 and 5.6 million; and equal to the overall daily bag limit with a breeding population above 5.6 million.

The Pacific Flyway Council recommended guidelines for the 1996–97 Pacific Flyway pintail harvest regulations based on a prescriptive basis. A matrix of breeding population size from a subset of survey strata association with the Pacific Flyway breeding population and the numbers of prairie ponds counted during the May survey would determine bag limits.

iii. September Teal Seasons

Council Recommendations: The Upper-Region Regulations Committee of the Mississippi Flyway Council recommended a 5-day experimental September teal season be offered to the production States of Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin for a 3-year period. The Committee recommended a daily bag limit of 4 teal with sunrise to sunset shooting hours.

The Central Flyway Council recommended a harvest strategy of linking regulatory packages developed for the September teal season with those developed for the regular duck season under the Adaptive Harvest Management process. For 1996, the Council recommended either a “restrictive” package of 5 days with a daily bag limit of 3 teal, a “moderate” package of 9 days with a daily bag limit of 4 teal, or a “liberal” package of 16 days with a daily bag limit of 5 teal.

iv. September Duck Seasons

Council Recommendations: The Upper-Region Regulations Committee of the Mississippi Flyway Council recommended Iowa be allowed to hold up to 5 days of its regular duck hunting season in September, starting no earlier than the Saturday nearest September 14. The remainder of the Iowa regular duck season could begin no earlier than October 10.

v. Other Species

Council Recommendations: The Atlantic Flyway Council recommended black duck harvest restrictions in place during the 1990–94 period be continued or increased for a 3-year period where

necessary to ensure adequate harvest reductions throughout the black duck range, beginning with the 1997–98 hunting season.

4. Canada Geese

A. Special Seasons

Council Recommendations: The Atlantic Flyway Council recommended the frameworks for September Canada goose seasons in the Atlantic Flyway be modified as follows:

September 1–15: Montezuma region of New York, Lake Champlain region of New York and Vermont, Maryland (Caroline, Cecil, Dorchester, and Talbot Counties), South Carolina, and Delaware.

September 1–20: North Carolina (Currituck, Camden, Pasquotank, Perquimans, Chowan, Bertie, Washington, Tyrrell, Dare, and Hyde Counties).

September 1–30: New Jersey and remaining portion of North Carolina.

September 1–25: Remaining portion of Flyway, except Georgia and Florida.

The Lower-Region Regulations Committee of the Mississippi Flyway Council recommended the Service continue to closely monitor the impacts of early Canada goose seasons, including both special seasons and September openings of regular seasons, to insure that cumulative impacts do not adversely affect migrant Canada geese and to insure that special seasons adhere to the criteria established by the Service.

The Upper-Region Regulations Committee of the Mississippi Flyway Council and the Pacific Flyway Council made several recommendations relating to September Canada goose seasons. All of the recommendations were within the established criteria for special Canada goose seasons published in the August 29, 1995, Federal Register (60 FR 45020).

Written Comments: The Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife supported extending the September frameworks for September Canada goose seasons in the Atlantic Flyway to September 25.

B. Regular Seasons

Council Recommendations: The Upper-Region Regulations Committee of the Mississippi Flyway Council recommended a September 21 framework opening date for the regular goose season in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan and statewide in Wisconsin.

The Pacific Flyway Council reiterated its 1995 recommendation that Alaska, Oregon, and Washington take actions to reduce the harvest of dusky Canada geese.

Written Comments: The Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife urged the Service to consider new data on Atlantic Population Canada geese that supports two populations of northern Atlantic Flyway geese.

7. Snow and Ross's Geese

Council Recommendations: The Lower-Region Regulations Committee of the Mississippi Flyway Council recommended the Service give serious consideration to innovative approaches to harvest management for snow geese. The Committee also recommended the Service consider recent changes in the Migratory Bird Treaty to provide greater hunter opportunities for snow geese.

The Central Flyway Council recommended a March 10 framework closing date for hunting light geese throughout the Central Flyway. However, the Council further recommended within the Rainwater Basin Region in Nebraska, the framework closing date be February 1 for hunting light geese on land owned or controlled by the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission or the Service.

8. Swans

Council Recommendations: The Atlantic Flyway Council recommended eliminating the requirement that tundra swan seasons must be held during snow goose seasons.

9. Sandhill Cranes

Council Recommendations: The Central Flyway Council recommended Wyoming's sandhill crane hunt area expand to include Park and Big Horn Counties.

The Pacific Flyway Council recommended season modifications in Montana and Wyoming. In Montana, the Council recommended a new hunt zone in the Ovando-Helmville area. In Wyoming, the Council recommended expanding the season from 3 to 8 days, increasing the number of permits, and establishing a new hunt zone in Park and Big Horn Counties.

18. Alaska

Council Recommendations: The Pacific Flyway Council recommended the establishment of separate basic limits for geese. For dark geese, the Council recommended a basic daily bag limit of 4, with 8 in possession. For light geese, the Council recommended a daily bag limit of 3, with 6 in possession. The proposed limits would be subject to area restrictions for Canada geese and limits for brant and emperor geese would remain separate.

Public Comment Invited

The Service intends that adopted final rules be as responsive as possible to all concerned interests, and therefore desires to obtain the comments and suggestions of the public, other concerned governmental agencies, non-governmental organizations, and other private interests on these proposals. Such comments, and any additional information received, may lead to final regulations that differ from these proposals.

Special circumstances are involved in the establishment of these regulations which limit the amount of time that the Service can allow for public comment. Specifically, two considerations compress the time in which the rulemaking process must operate: (1) the need to establish final rules at a point early enough in the summer to allow affected State agencies to appropriately adjust their licensing and regulatory mechanisms; and (2) the unavailability, before mid-June, of specific, reliable data on this year's status of some waterfowl and migratory shore and upland game bird populations. Therefore, the Service believes that to allow comment periods past the dates specified is contrary to the public interest.

Comment Procedure

The policy of the Department of the Interior, whenever practical, affords the public an opportunity to participate in the rulemaking process. Accordingly, interested persons may participate by submitting written comments to the Chief, Office of Migratory Bird Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, ms 634—ARLSQ, 1849 C Street, NW., Washington, DC 20240. The public may inspect comments during normal business hours at the Service's office in room 634, Arlington Square Building, 4401 N. Fairfax Drive, Arlington, Virginia. The Service will consider all

relevant comments received. The Service will attempt to acknowledge received comments, but substantive response to individual comments may not be provided.

NEPA Consideration

NEPA considerations are covered by the programmatic document, "Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement: Issuance of Annual Regulations Permitting the Sport Hunting of Migratory Birds (FSES 88-14)," filed with EPA on June 9, 1988. The Service published a Notice of Availability in the June 16, 1988, Federal Register (53 FR 22582). The Service published its Record of Decision on August 18, 1988 (53 FR 31341). Copies of these documents are available from the Service at the address indicated under the caption ADDRESSES.

Endangered Species Act Consideration

As in the past, hunting regulations this year will be designed, among other things, to remove or alleviate chances of conflict between seasons for migratory game birds and the protection and conservation of endangered and threatened species. Consultations are presently under way to ensure that actions resulting from these regulatory proposals will not likely jeopardize the continued existence of endangered or threatened species or result in the destruction or adverse modification of their critical habitat. It is possible that the findings from the consultations, which will be included in a biological opinion, may cause modification of some regulatory measures proposed in this document. The final frameworks will reflect any modifications. The Service's biological opinions resulting from its consultation under Section 7 are public documents and are available for public inspection in the Division of Endangered Species and the Office of Migratory Bird Management, U.S. Fish

and Wildlife Service, Arlington Square Building, 4401 N. Fairfax Drive, Arlington, Virginia.

Regulatory Flexibility Act; Executive Order (E.O.) 12866 and the Paperwork Reduction Act

In the Federal Register dated March 22, 1996, the Service reported measures it had undertaken to comply with requirements of the Regulatory Flexibility Act and the Executive Order. These included preparing a Small Entity Flexibility Analysis (Analysis) in 1995 to document the significant beneficial economic effect on a substantial number of small entities. The Analysis estimated that migratory bird hunters would spend between \$258 and \$586 million at small businesses in 1995. Copies of the Analysis are available upon request from the Office of Migratory Bird Management. This rule was not subject to review by the Office of Management and Budget under E.O. 12866.

The Service examined these proposed regulations under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 and found no information collection requirements.

Authorship: The primary authors of this proposed rule are Ron W. Kokel and Patricia R. Hairston, Office of Migratory Bird Management.

List of Subjects in 50 CFR Part 20

Exports, Hunting, Imports, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements, Transportation, Wildlife.

The rules that eventually will be promulgated for the 1996-97 hunting season are authorized under 16 U.S.C. 703-711, 16 U.S.C. 712, and 16 U.S.C. 742 a-j.

Dated: June 5, 1996.

George T. Frampton, Jr.,
Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks.

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