

## **POTPOURRI**

### **Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Wildlife and Fisheries Commission**

Public Hearing – Substantive Change to Notice of Intent  
2025-2027 Hunting Regulations and Seasons  
(LAC 76:XIX.Chapter 1)

The Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (department) and the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission (commission) published a Notice of Intent to amend its rules in the January 20, 2025 edition of the *Louisiana Register*. The commission proposes to amend the original Notice of Intent to add allowable gear for Primitive Firearms Season, clarify types of sights that may be used when archery hunting, prohibits the use of trail cameras during WMA turkey hunting season, adds designated airboat trails on Maurepas Swamp WMA, adjusts the lottery deer hunt dates for the Becoming an Outdoors Woman (BOW) hunt, opens up a portion of East Carroll Parish to turkey hunting, adjusts the daily limit of female pintail ducks to 1, and adjusts the waterfowl west and east zone hunt dates.

The secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is authorized to take any and all necessary steps on behalf of the commission to promulgate and effectuate this amended Notice of Intent, including but not limited to, the filing of the Fiscal and Economic Impact Statement, the filing of the amended Notice of Intent and compiling public comments and submissions for the commission's review and consideration. In the absence of any further action by the commission following an opportunity to consider all public comments regarding the amended proposed rule, the secretary is authorized and directed to prepare and transmit a summary report to the legislative oversight committees and file the final Rule.

**Title 76**

## **WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES**

### **Part XIX. Hunting and WMA Regulations**

#### **Chapter 1. Resident Game Hunting Season**

##### **§111. General and Wildlife Management Area Hunting Rules and Regulations**

A.-C.9.b.ii. ...

c. Methods of take:

i. white-tailed deer: same as outside;

ii. exotics: exotics may be taken with traditional bow,

compound bow and crossbow or any bow drawn, held or released by mechanical means;

shotguns not larger than 10 gauge, loaded with buckshot or rifled slug; centerfire handguns and

rifles no smaller than .22 caliber, rimfire no smaller than .30 caliber, pre-charged pneumatic

devices no smaller than .30 caliber and at least 150 grains in weight with a minimum muzzle

velocity of 800 feet per second or any combination of bullet weight and muzzle velocity that

produces muzzle energy of at least 215 foot pounds of energy or muzzleloading rifles or pistols,

.44 caliber minimum, or shotguns 10 gauge or smaller, all of which are designed to have

projectiles, ball, shot, or bullet, including sabot bullets, loaded exclusively through the muzzle,

or the muzzle end of the cylinder chamber, and is fired by wheel lock, flintlock, percussion cap,

or centerfire primer, and other approved primitive firearms.

C.9.d.-E.11. ...

12. Primitive Firearms Season: Still Hunt Only. Specific WMAs will also be open, check WMA schedule for specific details. A deer or senior license, whichever is

appropriate, is required for all hunters 18 years of age and older. Additionally, any person

younger than 18 years of age hunting the primitive firearms season shall have in their immediate

possession a valid, original youth license. Either-sex deer may be taken in all areas open for deer hunting except when a Bucks Only season is in progress. In such cases, hunters must conform to the bucks only regulations except antlerless deer may be harvested any day of the deer season on property enrolled in DMAP provided that a DMAP tag is possessed by the hunter at the time of harvest.

a. Legal Firearms for Primitive Firearms Season

i. Rifles or pistols, .44 caliber minimum, or shotguns 10 gauge or smaller, all of which are designed to have projectiles, ball, shot, or bullet, including sabot bullets, loaded exclusively through the muzzle, or the muzzle end of the cylinder chamber and is fired by wheel lock, flintlock, percussion cap or centerfire primer and may be fitted with magnified scopes.

ii. Single shot, breech loading rifles or single shot, breech loading pistols, .35 caliber or larger, having an exposed hammer, that use metallic cartridges loaded either with black powder or modern smokeless powder, and may be fitted with magnified scopes.

iii. Single shot, breech loading shotguns, 10 gauge or smaller, having an exposed hammer, loaded with buckshot or slug.

iv. Youths 17 or younger or individuals 65 or older may hunt deer with any legal weapon during the primitive firearms season in each deer hunting area.

13. Archery Season. A deer or senior license, whichever is appropriate, is required for all bow hunters 18 years of age and older. Additionally, any person younger than 18 years of age archery deer hunting shall have in their immediate possession a valid, original youth license. Either-sex deer may be taken in all areas open for deer hunting except when a bucks

only season is in progress for gun hunting, and except in areas 5, 6 and 9 from October 1-15.

Archers must conform to the bucks only regulations except antlerless deer may be harvested any day of the deer season on property enrolled in DMAP provided that a DMAP tag is possessed by the hunter at the time of harvest. Either-sex deer may be taken on WMAs at any time during archery season except when bucks only seasons are in progress on the respective WMA.

a. Bow and Arrow Regulations. Traditional bow, compound bow and crossbow or any bow drawn, held or released by mechanical means will be a legal means of take for all properly licensed hunters. Hunting arrows for deer must have well-sharpened broadhead points. Bow and arrow fishermen must have a sport fishing license and may not carry any arrows with broadhead points unless a deer or turkey season is in progress.

i. It is unlawful:

(a). to have in possession or use any poisoned or drugged arrow or arrows with explosive tips;

(b). to hunt deer with a bow having a pull less than 30 pounds;

(c). to hunt with a bow or crossbow equipped with an infrared or laser sight (does not include non-projecting red dot sights) or any sighting device which projects a beam of light to the target or otherwise electronically illuminates the target [R.S. 56:116.1.B.(4)].

E.14.-G.1.q. ...

r. Trail cameras are prohibited during turkey hunting season.

G.1.s.-G.9.e. ...

f. Airboats, aircraft, personal water craft, “mud crawling vessels” (commonly referred to as crawfish combines which use paddle wheels for locomotion) and hover craft are prohibited on all WMAs and refuges, except type A personal water craft, model year 2003 and beyond, which are eight feet in length and greater, may be operated within WMAs except Bussey Brake WMA from April 1 until the Monday of Labor Day weekend, from sunrise to sunset only, and except personal water craft allowed on designated portions of Alexander State Forest WMA year-round, and except airboats allowed on Maurepas Swamp WMA on designated trails. See WMA map for details. Personal water craft are defined as a vessel which uses an inboard motor powering a water jet pump as its primary source of propulsion and is designed to be operated by a person sitting, standing or kneeling on the vessel rather than in the conventional manner of sitting or standing inside the vessel. No person shall operate such water craft at a speed greater than slow/no wake within 100 feet of an anchored or moored vessel, shoreline, dock, pier, or persons engaged in angling or any other manually powered vessel.

G.9.g.-G.17.r.v. ...

s. Floy Ward McElroy. Access restricted. Contact Monroe Wildlife Field Office at 318-343-4045 for information.

i. Deer: limit 1 deer per participant per weekend for all hunts.

(a). Youth Lottery: second weekend and last consecutive Sat. and Sun. of Dec. except when either of those days falls on Dec. 24 or 25, then it will be the third weekend of Dec., and second consecutive Sat. and Sun. in Jan., either-sex. Restricted to those selected as a result of the pre-application lottery.

(b). Beyond Becoming an Outdoors Woman (BOW)

Lottery Deer Hunt: first weekend in Dec. Hunt restricted to those that have successfully completed the Becoming an Outdoors Woman Deer Management Course. Must be Hunter Education certified. Contact LDWF Education Section, 318-343-1241, for more information.

G.17.t.-G.21.c.vi. ...

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 56:115 and R.S. 56:116.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, LR 25:1279 (July 1999), amended LR 26:1494 (July 2000), LR 27:1049 (July 2001), LR 28:1603 (July 2002), LR 29:1124 (July 2003), repromulgated LR 29:1522 (August 2003), amended LR 30:1495 (July 2004), LR 31:1611 (July 2005), LR 32:1251 (July 2006), LR 33:1382 (July 2007), LR 34:1429 (July 2008), LR 35:1264 (July 2009), LR 36:1566 (July 2010), LR 37:2190 (July 2011), LR 38:1732 (July 2012), LR 39:2292 (August 2013), LR 40:1540 (August 2014), LR 41:963 (May 2015), LR 42:1112 (July 2016), LR 43:1423 (July 2017), LR 44:1277 (July 2018), LR 45:938 (July 2019), LR 46:961 (July 2020), LR 47:904 (July 2021), LR 48:511 (March 2022), LR 48:1867 (July 2022), LR 49:1235 (July 2023), LR 50:794 (June 2024), LR.

**§113. General and WMA Turkey Hunting Regulations**

A.-F.2.a.iii. ...

3. Area C

a. All of the following parishes are open:

i. Ascension;

ii. Concordia;

- iii. Franklin;
- iv. Iberville;
- v. Pointe Coupee;
- vi. West Baton Rouge.

b. Portions of the following parishes are open:

- i. Avoyelles—that portion bounded on the east by the Atchafalaya River, on the north by Red River to the Brouillette Community, on the west by LA 452 from Brouillette to LA 1, on the south by LA 1, eastward to Hamburg, thence by the west Atchafalaya Basin protection levee southward;
- ii. Caldwell—all east of the Ouachita River;
- iii. Catahoula—all of the parish except for that portion located in area A;
- iv. East Carroll—that portion east of the main line levee to the Mississippi River;
- v. Iberia—east of the west Atchafalaya Basin protection levee;
- vi. Madison—that portion lying east of US 65 from East Carroll Parish line to US 80 and south of US 80;
- vii. Richland—west of LA 17 from Franklin Parish line to Ringle Road, south of Ringle Road to Ferguson Road, south of Ferguson Road to Little Road, south of Little Road to Big Creek, east of Big Creek to Franklin Parish line and that portion south of US 80 and east of LA 17;

viii. St. Landry—that portion bounded on the west by the west Atchafalaya Basin Protection Levee and on the east by the Atchafalaya River;

Exception: the Indian Bayou area; see federal lands hunting schedule for Indian Bayou area dates.

ix. Tensas—that portion west of the main channel of the Mississippi River;

x. Upper St. Martin—all within the Atchafalaya Basin; in addition, that area bounded on the North by LA 352; on the West by LA 349, to LA 3039, to LA 347, to the Catahoula Hwy. (LA 96), to LA 679, to LA 345; and on the south by LA 3242;

Exceptions: Indian Bayou area, see federal lands hunting schedule for Indian Bayou dates.

F.4.-G.2.a. ...

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 56:115.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, LR 25:2263 (November 1999), amended LR 26:2634 (November 2000), LR 27:2270 (December 2001), LR 28:2375 (November 2002), LR 29:2512 (November 2003), LR 30:2874 (December 2004), LR 31:3167 (December 2005), LR 32:2272 (December 2006), LR 33:2469 (November 2007), LR 35:91 (January 2009), LR 35:2478 (November 2009), LR 36:2581 (November 2010), LR 37:3535 (December 2011), LR 38:2941 (November 2012), LR 40:96 (January 2014), LR 40:1554 (August 2014), LR 41:977 (May 2015), LR 42:1127 (July 2016), LR 43:1426 (July 2017), LR 44:1303 (July 2018), LR 45:964 (July 2019), LR 46:988 (July 2020), LR 47:934 (July 2021), LR 48:1897 (July 2022), LR 49:1266 (July 2023), LR 50:410 (March 2024), LR 50:826 (June 2024), LR .



**§117. Migratory Bird Seasons, Regulations, and Bag Limits**

A. Seasons and Bag Limits

| Species   | Season Dates   | Daily Bag<br>Limit   | Possession<br>Limit  |
|---|--|----------------------|----------------------|
| Mourning and White<br>Winged Doves and fully-<br>dressed Eurasian and<br>Collared Doves | South Zone:<br>Sept. 6-Sept. 21<br>Oct. 18-Nov. 30<br>Dec. 13-Jan. 11<br><br>North Zone:<br>Sept. 6-Sept. 28<br>Oct. 11-Nov. 16<br>Dec. 20-Jan. 18 | 15 (in<br>aggregate) | 45 (in<br>aggregate) |
| Woodcock  | Dec. 18-Jan. 31  | 3                    | 9                    |
| Teal (Blue-winged,<br>Green-winged and<br>Cinnamon)                                     | Sept. 20-Sept. 28  | 6                    | 18                   |
| King and Clapper Rails  | Sept. 20-Sept. 28<br>Nov. 8-Jan. 7   | 15 (in<br>aggregate) | 45 (in<br>aggregate) |
| Sora and Virginia Rails   | Sept. 20-Sept. 28<br>Nov. 8-Jan. 7   | 25 (in<br>aggregate) | 75 (in<br>aggregate) |

| Species                        | Season Dates  | Daily Bag<br>Limit   | Possession<br>Limit                    |
|--------------------------------|---|--|--|
| Gallinules                     | Sept. 20-Sept. 28<br>Nov. 8-Jan. 7  | 15   | 45                                     |
| Snipe                          | West Zone:<br>Nov. 2-Dec. 7<br>Dec. 20-Feb. 28<br>East Zone:<br>Nov. 2-Dec. 7<br>Dec. 20-Feb. 28  | 8  | 24                                     |
| Ducks, Coots and<br>Mergansers | West Zone:<br>Nov. 8-Nov. 9<br>(Youth only)<br>Nov. 15-Dec. 7<br>Dec. 20-Jan. 25<br>Jan. 31-Feb. 1<br>(Veteran's only)<br>East Zone:<br>Nov. 15-Nov. 16<br>(Youth and<br>Veteran's only)<br>Nov. 22-Dec. 8<br>Dec. 20-Jan. 31 | Daily bag<br>limit on<br>ducks is 6<br>and may<br>include no<br>more than 4<br>mallards (no<br>more than 2<br>females), 3<br>wood ducks,<br>2<br>canvasbacks,<br>2 redheads, 1 | Three times<br>the daily<br>bag limit. |

| <b>Species</b> | <b>Season Dates</b> | <b>Daily Bag<br/>Limit</b>  | <b>Possession<br/>Limit</b> |
|----------------|---------------------|---|-----------------------------|
|                |                     | black duck<br>and 3 pintails<br>(no more<br>than 1<br>female).<br>Only 1 scaup<br>may be taken<br>for the first<br>15 days of<br>the season<br>with 2 per<br>day allowed<br>for the<br>remainder.<br>No mottled<br>ducks may be<br>taken for the<br>first 15 days<br>of the season<br>with 1 per<br>day allowed |                             |

| Species  | Season Dates   | Daily Bag<br>Limit   | Possession<br>Limit                 |
|--|--|--|-------------------------------------|
|  |  | <p>for the remainder.</p> <p>Daily bag limit on coots is 15.</p> <p>Mergansers- The daily bag limit for mergansers is 5, only 2 of which may be hooded mergansers, in addition to the daily bag limit for ducks.</p> |                                     |
| <p>Light Geese (Snow, Blue, and Ross') and White-Fronted Geese</p> | <p>East Zone:<br/>Nov. 15-Dec. 8<br/>Dec. 20-Feb. 7<br/>West Zone:</p> | <p>Daily bag limit on Light Geese (snow, blue,</p>   | <p>No possession limit on Light</p> |

| Species      | Season Dates  | Daily Bag<br>Limit  | Possession<br>Limit  |
|--------------|---|---|--|
|              | Nov. 8-Dec. 7<br>Dec. 20-Feb. 1   | and ross') is<br>20.<br>Daily bag<br>limit on<br>White-<br>Fronted<br>Geese is 3. | Geese<br>(snow,<br>blue, and<br>ross')<br>Possession<br>limit on<br>White-<br>Fronted<br>Geese is 9. |
| Canada Geese | East Zone:<br>Nov. 15-Dec. 8<br>Dec. 20-Feb. 7<br>West Zone:<br>Nov. 8-Dec. 7<br>Dec. 20-Feb. 1 | 1   | 3  |

B. Conservation Order for Light Geese Seasons and Bag Limits

| <b>Species</b>                      | <b>Season Dates</b>  | <b>Daily Bag Limit</b> | <b>Possession Limit</b> |
|-------------------------------------|--|------------------------|-------------------------|
| Light Geese (Snow, Blue, and Ross') | East Zone:<br>Dec. 9-Dec. 19<br>Feb. 8-Mar. 15<br>West Zone:<br>Dec. 8-Dec. 19<br>Feb. 2-Mar. 15 | No daily bag limit.    | No possession limit.    |

C. Extended Falconry Seasons and Bag Limits

| <b>Species</b>  | <b>Season Dates</b>             | <b>Daily Bag Limit</b>  |
|---|---------------------------------|---|
| Mourning and White Winged Doves and fully-dressed Eurasian and Collared Doves | Sept. 13-Sept. 29               | Falconry daily bag and possession limit for all permitted migratory game birds must not exceed 3 and 9 birds, respectively, singly or in aggregate, during the extended falconry seasons and regular hunting seasons. |
| Woodcock  | Nov. 1-Dec. 17                  |   |
| Rails and Gallinule   | Nov. 1-Nov. 7<br>Jan. 8-Jan. 31 |   |
| Ducks   | Nov. 1-Jan. 31                  |   |

D.-H.2. ...

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 56:115.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, LR 42:1130 (July 2016), amended LR 43:1427 (July 2017), LR 44:1306 (July 2018), LR 45:966 (July 2019), LR 46:991 (July 2020), LR 47:937 (July 2021), LR 48:1899 (July 2022), LR 49:1268 (July 2023), LR 50:828 (June 2024), LR .

### **Public Hearing**

In accordance with R.S. 49:966(H)(2), a public hearing on the proposed substantive changes will be held by the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries on April 22, 2025 at 10 a.m. in the Joe L. Herring Louisiana Room of the Wildlife and Fisheries Headquarters Building, 2000 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, LA, 70808.

Kevin Sagrera

Chairman