

## **DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY**

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

1996-97 Waterfowl Hunting Seasons

In accordance with the emergency provision of R.S. 49:953(B) of the Administrative Procedure Act, and under the authority of R.S. 56:115, the Secretary of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission hereby adopts the following emergency rule:

The hunting seasons for ducks, coots and geese during the 1996-97 hunting season shall be as follows:

#### **DUCKS AND COOTS**

West Zone: November 9 - December 1  
December 21 - January 16  
East Zone: November 23 - December 5  
December 14 - January 19  
Catahoula Lake Zone: November 23 - December 5  
December 14 - January 19

Daily Bag Limits. The daily bag limit on ducks is 5 and may include no more than 4 mallards (no more than 1 of which may be a female), 3 mottled ducks, 1 black duck, 2 wood ducks, 1 pintail, 1 canvasback and 2 redhead. Daily bag limit on coots is 15.

Mergansers. The daily bag limit for mergansers is 5, only 1 of which may be a hooded merganser. Merganser limits are in addition to the daily bag limit for ducks.

Possession Limit. The possession limit on ducks, coots and mergansers is twice the daily bag limit.

#### **GEESE: LIGHT GEESE (SNOW AND BLUE)**

Statewide Season: November 9 - February 23  
Daily bag limit (snow and blue) - 10; Possession limit (snow and blue) - 30

#### **WHITE-FRONTED (SPECKLEBELLIES)**

November 9 - December 8  
December 21 - January 29

Daily Bag limit (speckle bellies) - 2; Possession limit (speckle bellies) - 4

During the Canada Goose Season (January 21 - January 29) the daily bag limit for Canada and white-fronted geese is 2, of which not more than 1 can be a Canada goose. Possession limit is twice the daily bag limit.

#### **CANADA GOOSE SEASON: CLOSED IN THE AREA DESCRIBED BELOW**

January 21 - January 29

During the Canada Goose Season (January 21 - January 29) the daily bag limit for Canada and white-fronted geese is 2, of which not more than 1 can be a Canada goose. Possession limit is twice the daily bag limit.

The Canada Goose Season will be open statewide except for a portion of southwest Louisiana. The closed area is described as follows: That portion of Cameron and Vermilion parishes from the Texas state line south of Highway 82 to its junction with the Calcasieu Ship Channel, east of the Calcasieu Ship Channel to its junction with the Intracoastal Waterway, south of the Intracoastal Waterway to its junction with Highway 82 at Forked Island, west of Highways 82 and 3147 to the junction of Highway 3147 and Freshwater Bayou. Open waters of Lake Arthur and the Mermentau River from the Highway 14 bridge southward will also be closed to Canada goose hunting.

A special permit shall be required to participate in the Canada Goose Season. A permit is required of everyone, regardless of age, and a non-refundable \$5 administrative fee will be charged. This permit may be obtained from any District Office.

Return of harvest information requested on permit is mandatory. Failure to submit this information to the Department by February 15, 1997 will result in the hunter not being allowed to participate in the Canada Goose Season the following year.

Shooting Hours: One-half hour before sunrise to sunset.

A Declaration of Emergency is necessary because the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service establishes the framework for all migratory species. In order for Louisiana to provide hunting opportunities to the 200,000 sportsmen, selection of season dates, bag limits and shooting hours must be established and presented to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service immediately.

The aforementioned season dates, bag limits and shooting hours will become effective November 1, 1996 and extend through sunset on March 10, 1997.

James H. Jenkins, Jr.  
Secretary

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