

**WEST VIRGINIA  
SECRETARY OF STATE  
KEN HECHLER  
ADMINISTRATIVE LAW DIVISION**

Form #2

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**NOTICE OF COMMENT PERIOD ON A PROPOSED RULE**

AGENCY: BUREAU OF COMMERCE, DIVISION OF NATURAL RESOURCES TITLE NUMBER: 58

RULE TYPE: LEGISLATIVE CITE AUTHORITY: 20-1-7(30)

AMENDMENT TO AN EXISTING RULE: YES  NO

IF YES, SERIES NUMBER OF RULE BEING AMENDED: 58

TITLE OF RULE BEING AMENDED: SPECIAL WATERFOWL HUNTING RULE

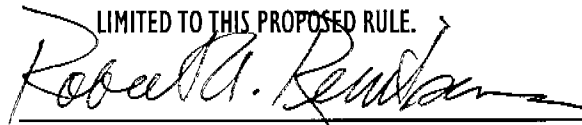
IF NO, SERIES NUMBER OF NEW RULE BEING PROPOSED: \_\_\_\_\_

TITLE OF RULE BEING PROPOSED: \_\_\_\_\_

IN LIEU OF A PUBLIC HEARING, A COMMENT PERIOD HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED DURING WHICH ANY INTERESTED PERSON MAY SEND COMMENTS CONCERNING THESE PROPOSED RULES. THIS COMMENT PERIOD WILL END ON July 1, 1997 AT 4:30 p.m. ONLY WRITTEN COMMENTS WILL BE ACCEPTED AND ARE TO BE MAILED TO THE FOLLOWING ADDRESS:

GORDON ROBERTSON, DEPUTY CHIEF  
DIVISION OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
WILDLIFE RESOURCES SECTION  
ROOM 842, BLDG. 3, CAPITOL COMPLEX  
CHARLESTON, WEST VIRGINIA 25305

THE ISSUES TO BE HEARD SHALL BE LIMITED TO THIS PROPOSED RULE.



ROBERT A. REINTSEMA, COMMISSIONER

ATTACH A **BRIEF** SUMMARY OF YOUR PROPOSAL

\$4.00

## **CIRCUMSTANCES REQUIRING THE NEW RULE**

The Division of Natural Resources seeks to participate in the federally offered youth waterfowl hunting program which allows certain waterfowl season days for youth hunting only. Youth participating in the program must be accompanied by a licensed adult 21 years of age or older. The accompanying adult can not hunt waterfowl.

The Division of Natural Resources, if it wishes to continue migratory bird seasons, must participate in the federally mandated Migratory Bird Harvest Information Program. The program required harvest date be asked of all migratory bird hunters within each state. This rule provides direction for compliance with that program.

## **SUMMARY OF THE RULE**

Title 58, Series 58, Special Waterfowl Hunting Rule establishes provisions that provide for the proper management of waterfowl with respect to the hunting of waterfowl in West Virginia. This amendment to the rule brings state rules in conformance with a federally provided opportunity for youth waterfowl hunts and the State's required participation in the Migratory Bird Harvest Information Program.

## FISCAL NOTE FOR PROPOSED RULE

**Rule Title:** Series 58 Special Waterfowl Hunting Rules

**Type of Rule**      X      **Legislative**                  **Interpretive**                  **Procedural**

**Agency**    Division of Natural Resources, Wildlife Resources Section

**Address**    Capitol Complex

Building 3, Room 842

Charleston, WV 25305

### 1. Effect of Proposed Rule

	ANNUAL			FISCAL YEAR	
	INCREASE	DECREASE	CURRENT	NEXT	THEREAFTER
<b>ESTIMATED TOTAL COST</b>	8500	0	0	0	8500
<b>PERSONAL SERVICES</b>					
<b>CURRENT EXPENSE</b>					
<b>REPAIRS &amp; ALTERATIONS</b>					
<b>EQUIPMENT</b>					
<b>OTHER</b>					

**2. Explanation of above estimates:** Estimates include the cost of printing and distributing forms. No new staff is required.

**3. Objectives of these rules:** To meet federal requirement for gathering harvest information on migratory birds.

### 4. Explanation of overall Economic Impact of Proposed Rule.

**A. Economic Impact on State Government:** The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will provide start-up cost for the first year and partial cost for the next two years.

**Rule Title:** Series 58, Special Waterfowl Hunting Rule

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**B. Economic Impact on Political Subdivisions; Specific Industries; Specific Groups of Citizens:** No impact.

**C. Economic Impact on Citizens/Public at Large:** No impact.

**Date:** 5/27/97

**Signature of Agency or  
Authorized Representative:**



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ROBERT A. REINTSEMA, COMMISSIONER

**TITLE 58  
LEGISLATIVE RULES  
BUREAU OF COMMERCE  
DIVISION OF NATURAL RESOURCES**

**SERIES 58  
SPECIAL WATERFOWL HUNTING RULE**

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**§58-58-1. General.**

1.1. Scope and Purpose. -- This rule establishes provisions that provide for the proper management of waterfowl with respect to the hunting of waterfowl in West Virginia.

1.2. Authority. -- West Virginia Code §20-1-7(30).

1.3. Filing Date. --

1.4. Effective Date. --

1.5. Seasons in General. -- All seasons are subject to change under the provisions of W. Va. Code §20-1-7(7). Opening and closing dates are inclusive and the time periods are prevailing time unless otherwise noted in this rule. Sunday hunting is illegal.

**§58-58-2. Definitions.**

2.1. "Aggregate" means the total bag or possession limit of similar kinds of waterfowl.

2.2. "Bait" means shelled, shucked, or unshucked corn, wheat or other grain, salt, or other feed.

2.3. "Baited Area" means any area where baiting occurs.

2.4. "Baiting" means the direct or indirect placing, exposing, depositing, distributing, or scattering of bait so as to constitute for waterfowl a lure, attraction, or enticement to, on, or over any areas where hunters are attempting to take them.

2.5. "Blind Area" means the area within seventy-five (75) yards of the hunter's assigned blind.

2.6. "Paraplegic" means an individual afflicted with paralysis of the lower half of the body with involvement of both legs, usually due to disease of or injury to the spinal cord.

2.7. "Permanently Disabled in the Lower Extremities" means an individual who is a paraplegic, who is missing both legs, or who has a disability affecting both legs which requires

permanent use of a wheelchair or crutches.

2.8. "Prevailing Time" means either Eastern Standard Time or Eastern Daylight Time as established by the United States Congress.

2.9. "Sinkbox" means a low floating device having a depression affording the hunter a means of concealment beneath the surface of the water.

2.10. "Waterfowl" means members of the family **Anatidae** (ducks, geese, mergansers, and swans) and members of the family **Rallidae** (coots and gallinules) for which open seasons are prescribed in Section 4 of ~~this regulation~~ the Waterfowl Hunting Regulations (58 C.S.R.57).

2.11. "Wildlife Management Area" means any public access area, public hunting area, public fishing area, public hunting and fishing area, public shooting ground, or public wildlife management area that is administered, leased, or owned by the State of West Virginia.

2.12. "Zone 1" means the entire State except Zone 2.

2.13. "Zone 2" means the following area:

2.13.1. Beginning at the West Virginia-Maryland boundary line, the eastern boundary of Zone 2 extends south along U.S. Route 220 through Keyser, West Virginia to the intersection with U.S. Route 50 and follows U.S. Route 50 to the intersection with State Route 93. The eastern boundary then follows State Route 93 south to the intersection of State Route 42 and continues south on State Route 42 to Petersburg. At Petersburg, the eastern boundary follows State Route 28 South to Minnehaha Springs and then follows State Route 39 west to U.S. Route 219. The eastern boundary then follows U.S. Route 219 south to the intersection with Interstate 64.

2.13.2. The southern boundary of Zone 2 follows Interstate 64 west to the intersection with U.S. Route 60 then follows U.S. Route 60 west to the intersection with U.S. Route 19.

2.13.3. The western boundary of Zone 2 follows U.S. Route 19 north to the intersection with Interstate 79 and then follows Interstate 79 north to the intersection with Interstate 68.

2.13.4. The northern boundary of Zone 2 follows Interstate 68 east to the West Virginia-Maryland boundary line.

### **§58-58-3. General Waterfowl Hunting Rules.**

3.1. Dual Violation. Violation of any provision of this regulation is also a violation of federal migratory bird hunting regulations under 50 C.F.R., Part 20, Subpart H.

3.2. Illegal Methods of Taking Waterfowl.

3.2.1. No person may take waterfowl with a trap, snare, net, crossbow, rifle, pistol, swivel gun, shotgun larger than 10-gauge, punt gun, battery gun, machine gun, fish hook, poison, drug, explosive, or stupefying substance.

3.2.2. No person may take waterfowl with a shotgun capable of holding more than three shells, unless it is plugged with a one-piece filler which is incapable of being removed without disassembling the gun.

3.2.3. No person may take waterfowl from a sink box.

3.2.4. No person may take waterfowl from or with the aid or use of a motor vehicle, other land conveyance, or an aircraft of any kind, except as provided in subdivision 3.2.4.a. of this regulation.

3.2.4.a. A person who is permanently disabled in the lower extremities and who holds a valid Class Q special resident hunting permit may take waterfowl from a stationary motor vehicle provided that he or she is the only occupant of that vehicle, that the engine of the vehicle is not operating, and that the vehicle is not parked on the right-of-way of any public road or highway.

3.2.5. No person may take waterfowl from or by means of any motorboat or sailboat unless the motor has been completely shut off or the sail furled and the progress from the motor or sail has ceased.

3.2.6. No person may take waterfowl by the use or aid of live birds as decoys.

3.2.6.a. All live, tame, or captive ducks and geese must have been removed by the landowner from the hunt area for a period of ten (10) consecutive days prior to hunting and confined within an enclosure which substantially reduces the audibility of their calls and totally conceals the tame birds from the sight of migratory waterfowl.

3.2.7. No person may take waterfowl by the use of records or tapes of waterfowl calls or sounds, or recorded or electrically-amplified imitations of waterfowl calls.

3.2.8. No person may take waterfowl by concentrating, driving, rallying, or chasing the birds with any motorized land, water, or air conveyance or any sailboat.

3.2.9. No person may take waterfowl by the aid of baiting, or on or over any baited area. Hunters should be aware that a baited area is considered to be baited for ten (10) days after the removal of the bait, and it is not necessary for the hunter to know an area is baited to be in violation of federal regulations and Subsection 3.2 of this regulation.

3.3. Tagging. No person may give, put, or leave waterfowl at any place, or in the custody of another person, unless the birds are tagged by the hunter with the following information:

3.3.1. The hunter's signature and address; the total number of birds involved, by species; and the date on which each bird was killed.

3.4. Field Dressing. No person may completely field dress waterfowl and then transport the birds from the field. The head or one fully-feathered wing must remain attached to all birds while being transported from the field to the hunters home or to a migratory bird preservation facility, as defined in 50 C.F.R. §20.11.

3.5. Shipment. No person may ship waterfowl unless the package is marked on the outside with the following information:

3.5.1. The name and address of the person sending the birds;

3.5.2. The name and address of the person to whom the birds are being sent; and

3.5.3. The number of birds, by species, contained in the package.

3.6. Importation. For information regarding the importation of waterfowl from another country, hunters should consult 50 C.F.R. §§20.61 through 20.66. One (1) fully-feathered wing must remain attached to all waterfowl being transported between the port of entry and one's home or to a migratory bird preservation facility, as defined in 50 C.F.R. §20.11. No person may import waterfowl killed in any foreign country, except Canada, unless the birds are dressed (except as required in 50 C.F.R. §20.63), drawn, and the head and feet removed. No person may import waterfowl belonging to another person.

3.7. Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp. Each waterfowl hunter sixteen (16) years of age and over must carry on his or her person a valid federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp (i.e., "duck stamp") signed in ink across the face. This stamp is not needed in order to hunt coots or gallinules.

3.8. West Virginia Migratory Waterfowl Conservation Stamp. Each waterfowl hunter sixteen (16) years of age and over, except those persons exempt by §20-2-63 from the payment of hunting license fees, must carry on his or her person a valid West Virginia Migratory Waterfowl Conservation Stamp (i.e., a "state duck stamp") signed in ink across the face. This stamp is not needed in order to hunt coots or gallinules.

3.9. Mandatory Use of nontoxic Shot . Use of nontoxic shot approved by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service is mandatory when hunting waterfowl. Only nontoxic shot size "T" or smaller shall be used or in hunter's possession while hunting of waterfowl.

3.10. Concurrent Waterfowl Hunting. Concurrent hunting of waterfowl on major rivers, lakes, and reservoirs is legal during the bucks-only deer season if the season for the waterfowl is also open.

3.11. Youth Waterfowl Hunting Day. In accordance with Federal Regulation (50 C.F.R.20.105f) youth hunters must be fifteen (15) years of age or younger to participate in the Youth Waterfowl Hunting Day. Youth hunters must be accompanied by a licensed adult twenty-one (21) years of age or older. The accompanying adult cannot hunt waterfowl.

3.12. Migratory Bird Harvest Information Program. No person, except those legally exempt from purchasing a hunting license, may take or attempt to take waterfowl in West Virginia after July 1, 1998, unless they are enrolled annually in the Federal Migratory Bird Harvest Information Program as required by Federal Regulations (50 C.F.R. 20.20)

3.12.1. Current proof of annual enrollment must be carried on the hunter's person while hunting waterfowl.