



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

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April 2, 2019

Mr. Eric Sklar, President
California Fish and Game Commission
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1320
Sacramento, Ca. 95814

RE: January 31st Duck Season Ending Date for 2019/20 Season – Support

Dear President, Sklar:

It has come to our attention that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has authorized states to extend their duck season until January 31st of each year, so long as they do not exceed the maximum number of hunt days currently allowed (which in California is 107 days).

We, the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors, strongly urge you to adopt this regulatory change for the 2019/20 season for the balance of the State (which includes Humboldt County), Southern San Joaquin and Southern California Zones.

We support this regulatory change for the following reasons:

- In California, waterfowl hunting opportunities in most zones is generally better late in the season, as evidenced by daily harvest data on National Wildlife Refuges and State Wildlife Areas.
- It would further the goals of hunting recruitment, retention and reactivation (R3) by increasing hunting opportunities.
- It does not increase the total number of duck hunting days allowed within the Pacific Flyway, and should not adversely affect duck populations.
- It would still allow the post-season youth hunt to occur up to two weeks later.
- It could incentivize private duck clubs, including those operating as managed wetlands and post-harvest flooded agricultural fields (e.g. rice, corn), to maintain flooded habitat on their property for a longer duration of time thereby benefitting waterfowl and shorebirds.
- It would simplify regulations by creating a date certain ending (January 31) to the regular duck season. While in many years this would require ending the season on a non-Sunday, this already occurs in one of our zones (e.g. NE Zone), and it still allows duck season to open on a Saturday.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Supervisor Rex Bohn, Chair
Humboldt County

cc: Vice President Hostler-Carmesin
Commissioner Burns
Commissioner Silva