

ODNR Division of Wildlife Proposed OAC Rule Changes

1501:31-1-02 Definitions (Effective November 9, 2015)

It is recommended that the following changes be made to this rule:

Include the Eurasian collared-dove within the definition of “Migratory game birds” and “Game birds”. The Eurasian collared-dove is a non-native species that has spread rapidly across North America. In flight, it is very similar in appearance to mourning doves. The USFWS has declared that the Eurasian collared-dove is not subject to the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.

Correct the spelling of “Vermillion” to “Vermilion”.

1501:31-7-03 Migratory Game Bird Possession Limits (Effective September 1, 2015)

It is proposed that this rule be amended to permit the possession of Eurasian collared-dove in the field without the head or one fully feathered wing attached. This is consistent with the exemption for mourning doves.

1501:31-7-05 Seasons and Limits on Rail, Common Snipe (Wilson’s snipe), Woodcock, Gallinules (Common Moorhens), Teal, Geese, and Mourning Doves (Effective September 1, 2015)

It is proposed that this rule be amended to adjust season dates and bag limits according to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service guidelines. Proposed dates and bag limits are:

SPECIES	OPEN SEASON	DAILY BAG LIMIT	POSSESSION LIMIT AFTER SECOND DAY
RAILS (Virginia and sora only)	September 1 through November 9	25	75
COMMON MOORHEN (Gallinule)	September 1 through November 9	15	45

COMMON (Wilson's) SNIPE	September 1 through November 29 & December 19 through January 4, 2016	8	24
MOURNING DOVE (including Eurasian collared-dove)	September 1 through November 8 & December 12 through January 1, 2016	15	45
WOODCOCK	October 10 through November 23	3	9
TEAL (blue-winged, green-winged, cinnamon teal only)	September 5 through September 20	6	18
Early statewide CANADA GOOSE	September 1 through September 15	5	15

It is proposed that licensed falconers be prohibited from taking ducks, coots and geese during the early Canada goose and teal season.

It is further proposed to allow the taking and possession of Eurasian collared-doves during the established seasons for mourning doves. All rules that regulate the taking or possession of mourning doves will apply to the taking and possession of Eurasian collared-doves. Eurasian collared-doves will be included within the daily bag and possession limit for mourning doves.

1501:31-7-06 Seasons and Limits on Ducks, Brant, Geese, Mergansers, and Coots
(Effective September 1, 2015)

It is proposed that this rule be amended to adjust season dates and bag limits according to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service guidelines.

2015-2016 Geese and Brant Season Dates, Bag and Possession Limits

SPECIES	OPEN SEASON	DAILY BAG LIMIT	POSSESSION LIMIT AFTER SECOND DAY
Canada Geese	LAKE ERIE MARSH ZONE October 17 – November 1, 2015	3	9
Light Geese (Snows, Blues, Ross')	& November 14 – December 27, 2015 & January 14 – January 31, 2016	10	30
White-fronted Geese	NORTH ZONE October 24 – November 8, 2015	1	3
Brant	& November 21, 2015 - January 3, 2016 & January 14 – January 31, 2016 SOUTH ZONE October 24 - November 8, 2015 & December 1, 2015 - January 31, 2016	1	3

2015-2016 Duck, Coot, Merganser and Canvasback Season Dates, Bag and Possession Limits

SPECIES	OPEN SEASON	DAILY BAG LIMIT	POSSESSION LIMIT AFTER SECOND DAY
Ducks	LAKE ERIE MARSH ZONE October 17 – November 1, 2015 & November 14 - December 27, 2015	6*	18
Coots		15	45

Mergansers	NORTH ZONE October 24 – November 8, 2015 & November 21, 2015 – January 3, 2016	5*	15
	SOUTH ZONE October 24 – November 8, 2015 & December 19, 2015 - January 31, 2016		
*Daily Bag Limits Ducks: Daily bag limit of 6 ducks not to include more than 4 mallards (only 1 of which may be a hen), 3 wood ducks, 1 black duck, 2 redheads, 3 scaup (bluebill), 2 canvasback, 1 mottled duck, or 2 pintails. Mergansers: Daily bag limit of 5, not to include more than 2 hooded mergansers. Coots: Daily bag limit of 15.			

NOTE: Youth Waterfowl Dates: October 3 & 4, 2015

(Effective November 9, 2015)

It is proposed to amend this rule to permit waterfowl hunters to carry a valid receipt for a federal electronic duck stamp, or E-Stamp in place of their signed federal migratory bird stamp for up to 45 days or until they receive their physical federal migratory bird stamp.

1501:31-9-05 Training Dogs (Effective March 1, 2016)

It is proposed to amend this rule by adding the month of April to the time when the training, exercising or working dogs on wildlife areas and public hunting areas is prohibited, unless approved by the Chief. The period closed to dog training will be from April 1st to August 31st, annually. This will provide additional protection for ground-nesting birds and reduce conflicts during the spring wild turkey season. The rule will be clarified to allow for the use of dogs in conjunction with legal hunting on these areas.

1501:31-13-02 Fishing Methods Other than Angling; Area Affected (Effective March 1, 2016)

It is proposed to amend this rule by replacing the reference to “old U.S. Route 30” at Charles Mill Lake to State Route 430, accurately referencing the name of this roadway.

It is proposed to amend this rule by requiring that trotlines used in the inland fishing district, and all float lines used state wide, be tagged by the user with their name and address or their unique Division of Wildlife customer identification number. This rule will provide consistency with the rule requiring the use of tags on set or bank lines and minnow or bait fish traps.

1501:31-13-07 Special Fishing Regulations for Water Areas Owned or Controlled by the Division of Wildlife. (Effective March 1, 2016)

It is proposed to amend this rule by updating the list of areas owned by American Electric Power that require a special permit to fish under an agreement with the Division of Wildlife. These areas are the ReCreation Lands, Avondale, Conesville, Gavin, and Poston properties. The reference to the Kaul public hunting area will be removed, the agreement has expired. The reference to the "Ohio Power Recreation Area" will also be deleted.

It is further proposed to amend this rule regarding the possession of fish with a size limit taken from Pymatuning Lake. The amended language will match rule 1501:31-13-08(I) and will provide consistency for the possession of fish and fish fillets. The proposed rule will require that fish be in the round when possessed while fishing or on the water. Fish may be filleted into a complete fillet or remain in the round when being transported to a permanent residence or being prepared for immediate consumption.

1501:31-13-08 Fish Daily Bag Limits; Protected Species. (Effective March 1, 2016)

It is proposed to amend this rule by establishing a daily bag limit of thirty fish singly or in the aggregate for striped bass, hybrid-striped bass, or white bass in waters of the state, other than in the Lake Erie sport fishing district.

Of these thirty fish, it is further proposed to establish a daily limit of four fish over fifteen inches in length.

The proposed regulation will create uniformity in regulations for these three species among the Ohio River fishing units and other inland waters.

It is further proposed to eliminate the location specific daily bag limits for hybrid striped bass taken from East Fork Lake, and striped bass from Senecaville Lake and Kiser Lake.

It is also proposed to move the rule concerning the bag limits for saugeyes, walleyes, or sauger in the Ohio River Zone to rule 1501:31-13-11 Special Ohio River Fishing Regulations.

1501:31-13-11 Special Ohio River Fishing Regulations. (Effective March 1, 2016)

It is proposed that the regulation concerning the daily bag limit of ten saugeyes, walleyes, or sauger in the aggregate taken from the East and West Ohio River Fishing Units be added to this rule. This regulation is proposed to be removed from rule 1501:31-13-08 Fish Daily Bag Limits; Protected Species.

1501:31-15-11 Deer regulations. (Effective November 9, 2015)

It is proposed to amend this rule to allow for the hunting, taking or possession of deer only when in accordance with Chapters 1531 or 1533 of the Revised Code, a Division of Wildlife rule or when authorized by the Chief of the Division of Wildlife.

1501-31-19-03 Disease surveillance area regulations - NEW RULE (Effective November 9, 2015)

It is proposed to add a rule that permits the Chief of the Division of Wildlife to establish a “disease surveillance area” when chronic wasting disease has been detected in a member of the cervidae family. This designation will include all areas within a minimum of six miles surrounding a location where the disease has been detected. This designation will remain in effect for a minimum of three years and will be posted on the Division’s website at wildohio.gov.

The following regulations would apply within the disease surveillance area:

- Required submission of harvested deer carcasses to Division of Wildlife inspection stations for inspection and sampling during the deer gun and deer muzzleloading seasons;
- Prohibit the placement of or use of salt, mineral supplement, grain, fruit, vegetables or other feed to attract or feed deer;
- Prohibit the hunting of deer by the aid of salt, mineral supplement, grain, fruit, vegetables or other feed;
- Prohibit the removal of a deer carcass killed by a motor vehicle unless the carcass complies with the cervidae carcass regulations.

Normal agricultural activities including feeding of domestic animals would not be prohibited. Hunting deer over food plots, natural occurring or cultivated plants and agriculture crops would not be prohibited.

1501:31-23-02 Species designated as threatened. (Effective November 9, 2015)

It is recommended that the Northern Long-eared Bat be added to the list of wild animals listed as threatened in Ohio due to a change in its federal status.