

ODNR Division of Wildlife
Proposed OAC Rule Changes
 Effective July 1, 2016 (Unless otherwise noted)

1501:31-7-05 Seasons and limits on rail, common snipe (Wilson's snipe), woodcock, gallinules (common moorhens), teal, geese and mourning doves

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 (<i>Virginia and sora only</i>)	September 1 through November 9	25	75
Common Moorhen (<i>Gallinule</i>)	September 1 through November 9	15	45
Common (<i>Wilson's</i>) Snipe	September 1 through November 29 & December 17, 2016 through January 2, 2017	8	24
Mourning Dove (<i>including Eurasian collared-dove</i>)	September 1 through November 6 & December 15 17, 2016 through January 8, 2017	15	45
Woodcock	October 8 through November 21	3	9

Teal (<i>blue-winged, green-winged, cinnamon teal only</i>)	September 3 through September 18	6	18
Early statewide Canada Goose	September 3 through September 11	5	15

1501:31-7-06 Seasons and limits on ducks, brant, geese, mergansers, and coots

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

2016-2017 Geese and Brant Season Dates, Bag and Possession Limits

SPECIES	OPEN SEASON	DAILY BAG LIMIT	POSSESSION LIMIT AFTER SECOND DAY
Light Geese (<i>Snows, Blues, Ross'</i>)	LAKE ERIE MARSH ZONE October 15 –October 30, 2016 & November 12 – December 25, 2016 & January 7 – February 11, 2017	10	30
Dark Geese (<i>Canada, White-fronted Geese and Brant</i>)	NORTH ZONE October 22 – November 6, 2016 & November 19, 2016 - January 1, 2017 & January 7 – February 11, 2017 SOUTH ZONE October 22 – November 6, 2016 & November 24, 2016 – February 11, 2017	3	9
Goose hunting will be unlawful after January 30, 2017 on Pymatuning Lake.			

2016-2017 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 15 – October 30, 2016 & November 12 - December 25, 2016	6*	18
Coots		15	45
Mergansers	NORTH ZONE October 22 – November 6, 2016 & November 19, 2016 – January 1, 2017	5*	15
	SOUTH ZONE October 22 – November 6, 2016 & December 17, 2016 - January 29, 2017		
*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), 1 canvasback, 1 mottled duck, or 2 pintails. Mergansers: Daily bag limit of 5, not to include more than 2 hooded mergansers.			

NOTE: Youth Waterfowl Dates: October 1 & 2, 2016

It is proposed that the waterfowl hunting zones be changed to read as follows, moving the line between the north and south zones to:

North Zone: All portions of the State, except the Lake Erie Marsh Zone, north of a line extending east from the Indiana State line along U. S. Highway 33 to State Route 127, south along SR 127 to SR 703, south along SR 703, including all lands within the Mercer Wildlife Area, to SR 219, east along SR 219 to SR 364, north along SR 364, including all lands within the St. Mary’s Fish Hatchery, to SR 703, east along SR 703 to SR 66, north along SR 66 to U. S. 33, east along U. S. 33 to SR 385, east along SR 385 to SR 117, south along SR 117 to SR 273, east along SR 273 to SR 31, south along SR 31 to SR 739, east along SR 739 to SR 4, north along SR 4 to SR 95, east along SR 95 to SR 13, southeast along SR 13 to SR 3,

northeast along SR 3 to SR 60, north along SR 60 to U.S. 30, east along U.S. 30 to SR 3, south along SR 3 to SR 226, south along SR 226 to SR 514, southwest along SR 514 to SR 754, south along SR 754 to SR 39/60, east along SR 39/60 U.S. to SR 241, north along SR 241 to U.S. 30, east along U.S. 30 to SR 39, east along SR 39 to the Pennsylvania State line.

South Zone: All portions of the state not included in the Lake Erie Marsh Zone or the North Zone.

Lake Erie Marsh Zone: The Lake Erie Marsh Zone begins at the intersection of Interstate 75 at the Ohio-Michigan state line and continues south to Interstate 280, then south on I-280 to the Ohio Turnpike (I-80/I-90), then east on the Ohio Turnpike to the Erie-Lorain county line, then north to Lake Erie. The zone boundary follows the Lake Erie shoreline at a distance of 200 yards offshore. The zone boundary follows the shoreline west toward and around the northern tip of Cedar Point Amusement Park, then continues from the westernmost point of Cedar Point toward the southernmost tip of the sand bar at the mouth of Sandusky Bay and out into Lake Erie at a distance of 200 yards offshore continuing parallel to the Lake Erie shoreline north and west toward the northernmost tip of Cedar Point National Wildlife Refuge, then follows a direct line toward the southernmost tip of Wood Tick Peninsula in Michigan to a point that intersects the Ohio-Michigan state line, then follows the state line back to the point of the beginning (see map).

1501:31-13-04 Bait and bait dealers (CSI) [Effective May 1, 2016](#)

It is proposed that this rule be amended as follows:

- Replace the term “bait dealer” with “person permitted under section 1533.40 of the Revised Code”, and change the references to a “license” to “permit” to provide consistency with language in Ohio Revised Code.
- Allow a permitted bait dealer to sell minnows, crayfish, hellgrammites, and other larval aquatic insects, suckers not exceeding ten inches in length, skipjack herring, smelt, brook silversides, brook sticklebacks, gizzard shad, trout perch, sculpins (non-endangered), darters (non-endangered), top minnows and mud minnows taken from any waters in the state of Ohio, or obtained from an aquaculture facility.
- Allow a permitted bait dealer to sell sunfish and bullhead acquired from an aquaculture facility or legally acquired from out of state and requiring that a receipt be provided with the sale.
- Require that records of all sales must be kept for a minimum of two years.
- Prohibit the possession or sales of live skipjack herring within the Lake Erie drainage basin.

~~1501:31-15-07 Areas having limited hunting~~

~~It is proposed to modify this rule to add Funk Bottom Wildlife Area to the list of areas where it is legal to hunt waterfowl only on Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday during waterfowl season.~~

1501:31-15-08 Deer damage control permits

It is proposed to amend this rule to make it unlawful to fail to comply with the provisions of a Deer Damage Control Permit.

1501:31-15-10 Wild turkey regulations

It is recommended that the dates for turkey season be updated for the 2017 youth and spring seasons. It is proposed to have 2 spring hunting zones in 2017 with different season dates.

- Youth turkey season dates will be held April 22 and 23, 2017 statewide.
- Spring Turkey season dates for the Northeast Zone (Ashtabula, Cuyahoga, Geauga, Lake and Trumbull counties) will be held May 1- May 14, 2017; hunting hours are one half hour before sunrise to noon **AND** May 15- May 28, 2017; hunting hours are one half hour before sunrise to sunset.
- Spring Turkey season dates for the South Zone (remaining 83 counties) will be held April 24- May 7, 2017; hunting hours are one half hour before sunrise to noon **AND** May 8- May 21, 2017; hunting hours are one half hour before sunrise to sunset.

1501:31-15-11 Deer regulations

It is proposed that dates for the youth gun season for deer be November 19 and 20, 2016, the two-day gun season be designated as December ~~28~~ [17](#) and ~~29~~ [18](#), 2016, and that the muzzle loader season be January ~~14-17~~ [7-10](#), 2017.

All other season dates, bag limits, methods of take, etc. will remain unchanged.

Archery Season - 9/24/16 – 2/5/17

Youth Gun Season - 11/19-11/20, 2016

Gun Season 11/28/16 to 12/4/16

Bonus Gun Season ~~12/28-29, 2016~~ [12/17-12/18/2016](#)

Muzzleloader Season ~~1/14/17 – 1/17/17~~ [1/7- 1/10/2017](#)

1501:31-15-17 Seasons for game birds, game quadrupeds and furbearing animals

It is proposed that the season dates for crows be changed to open on June 3, 2016 and close March 4, 2017, then reopen June 2, 2017 and close on March 3, 2018.

1501:31-19-01 Wild animal importing, exporting, selling and possession regulations (CSI)

It is proposed that this rule be changed to list the species designated as injurious aquatic invasive species by reference on the website <http://www.wildohio.gov>. The list changes frequently as additional potentially invasive species are identified. Designation by reference will prevent the rule from having to be modified annually (or bi-annually).

1501:31-25-04 Reptiles and amphibians regulations (CSI)

It is proposed that this rule be amended to prohibit the taking or possession of snapping turtle and softshell turtle eggs from the wild.

It is proposed to reduce the minimum legal size of the straight line carapace length of snapping turtles and softshell turtles from thirteen to eleven inches.

It is proposed to prohibit the taking of snapping turtles and softshell turtles with archery equipment.

It is further proposed to prohibit the export of live snapping turtles and softshell turtles taken from the wild in Ohio except those snapping or softshell turtles raised under the authority of a propagation permit.

It is proposed that the closed season dates for snapping and softshell turtles be changed to January 1 through June 30, instead of May 1 through June 30. This will provide greater protection to breeding turtles in the early spring.

1501:31-29-03 Shooting ranges (CSI)

It is proposed to amend this rule by removing the edition reference for the NRA Range Source Book, since this book has undergone several iterations since it was created in 1999. The proposed change will reference the "2012 Edition".

1501:31-35-01 Concession lease agreement (CSI)

It is proposed to amend this rule to reflect the current Ohio Department of Administrative Services requirements when the Division of Wildlife advertises for bids for the operation of concession facilities located on Division of Wildlife controlled property. The amendments will provide for advertisement on an electronic media outlet, the State of Ohio's website, as well as a local newspaper for a time period of at least four weeks.