

NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING

FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

RULE CHAPTER TITLE: GENERAL HUNTING REGULATIONS

RULE TITLES:

RULE NOS.:

Hunting Regulations for Ducks, Geese, and Coots.

68A-13.003

PURPOSE AND EFFECT: The purpose of the proposed rule changes is to revise season dates and bag limits for waterfowl and coots in conformance with federal regulations. The effect of the proposed rule changes is to allow the harvest of snow geese statewide and move the 30-day canvasback season from the first 30 days to the last 30 days of the waterfowl hunting season.

SUMMARY: The proposed rule changes would allow snow geese to be taken statewide and move the 30-day canvasback season from the first 30 days to the last 30 days of the waterfowl hunting season.

A STATEMENT OF ESTIMATED REGULATORY COST HAS NOT BEEN PREPARED REGARDING THESE PROPOSED RULES.

Any person who wishes to provide information regarding the statement of estimated regulatory costs, or to provide a proposal for lower cost regulatory alternative must do so in writing within 21 days of this notice.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY: Article IV, Section 9, Florida Const.

LAW IMPLEMENTED: Article IV, Section 9, Florida Const.

THE FISH AND WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION WILL CONDUCT A PUBLIC RULEMAKING HEARING ON THE PROPOSED RULES DURING THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMISSION TO BE HELD AT THE TIME, DATE, AND PLACE SHOWN BELOW:

TIME AND DATE: 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., each day, February 1 – 2, 2006.

PLACE: Hilton University of Florida Conference Center, 1714 S.W. 34th Street, Gainesville, Florida 32607.

Pursuant to the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act, any person requiring special accommodations to participate in this workshop/meeting is asked to advise the agency at least 5 calendar days before the workshop/meeting by contacting the ADA Coordinator, at (850) 488-6411. If you are hearing or speech impaired, please contact the agency by calling (850) 488-9542.

THE PERSON TO BE CONTACTED REGARDING THE PROPOSED RULE IS: James V. Antista, General Counsel, Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, 620 South Meridian Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-1600.

THE FULL TEXT OF THE PROPOSED RULE IS AS FOLLOWS:

68A-13.003 Hunting Regulations for Ducks, Geese, and Coots.

The Commission has approved the following regulations and bag limits for taking ducks, geese, and coots:

(1) Duck, light goose, and coot season:

(a) Open season:

1. First phase – Opening the Saturday before Thanksgiving and closing the Sunday following Thanksgiving.

2. Second phase – Opening 50 days prior to the last Sunday in January and closing the last Sunday in January.

3. Canvasback season – The last 30 days of the season ~~first phase and the first 21 days of the second phase~~ as specified in this paragraph (1)(a).

(b) – (f) No Change.

~~(g) Light geese may only be taken north and west of the Suwannee River.~~

(2) – (5) No Change.

PROPOSED EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2006.

Specific Authority Art. IV, Sec. 9, Fla. Const. Law Implemented Art. IV, Sec. 9, Fla. Const.

History—New 8-1-79, Amended 10-23-79, 8-19-80, 9-29-81, 8-30-82, 7-27-83, 8-13-84, 8-

13-85, 10-1-85, Formerly 39-13.03, Amended 8-5-86, 8-24-87, 8-18-88, 12-12-88, 8-17-89, 10-30-89, 8-9-90, 10-31-90, 8-22-91, 10-31-91, 8-23-92, 10-22-92, 9-2-93, 10-28-93, 11-6-94, 10-23-95, 10-20-96, 8-7-97, 10-28-97, 11-12-98, 6-23-99, Formerly 39-13.003, Amended 11-7-00, 5-13-02, 5-1-03, 7-1-04, 7-1-05, _____, _____.

NAME OF PERSON(S) ORIGINATING PROPOSED RULE: Mr. Nick Wiley, Director, Division of Hunting and Game Management.

NAME OF SUPERVISOR WHO APPROVED THE PROPOSED RULE: Mr. Kenneth D. Haddad, Executive Director.

DATE PROPOSED RULE APPROVED BY AGENCY HEAD: September 21, 2005.

DATE NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULE DEVELOPMENT PUBLISHED IN F.A.W.: November 23, 2005.

BE ADVISED THAT THESE PROPOSED RULES MAY BE FILED FOR ADOPTION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE FOLLOWING THE COMMISSION MEETING AT WHICH THEY ARE CONSIDERED IF THE RULES ARE NOT CHANGED. IF CHANGED, THE RULES MAY BE FILED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AFTER PUBLICATION OF A NOTICE OF CHANGE IN THE F.A.W.