

NUNAVUT MIGRATORY BIRDS HUNTING REGULATIONS
Proposed Changes for the 2018-2019 Season

The Canadian Wildlife Service is proposing several minor changes to the allowable bag and possession limits in Nunavut. They are described in textual form below and highlighted in Table 1.

Increase in possession limits:

The possession limit of ducks for non-residents of Canada was 16 for the 2016-2017 hunting season, for Canada Geese, Cackling Geese, White-fronted Geese and Brant was 10 and for Snipe was 20. These represent twice the daily bag limit. ***It is proposed to increase these possession limits to three times the daily bag limit – 24 ducks, 15 Canada Geese, Cackling Geese, White-fronted Geese and Brant and 30 Snipe*** to increase limit consistency with surrounding Provinces in Canada such as Manitoba, Ontario and Quebec.

The possession limit of White-fronted Geese for non-residents of Canada is currently restricted to four (subscript *f*, Table 1); twice the daily bag limit. ***It is proposed to increase the possession limit of White-fronted Geese to 6 for non-residents.*** In adjacent jurisdictions (Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec), the number of White-fronted Geese allowed in possession is not differentiated from that of other dark geese (i.e. excluding Snow and Ross's geese) for non-residents with the exception of Ontario for which the possession limit is three times the daily bag limit.

There are no anticipated conservation concerns or implications associated with the changes in possession limits for these species.

Barrow's Goldeneye and Blue-winged Teal are currently considered to be species of conservation concern or which could be negatively affected by increased hunting pressure. As such, no changes to possession limits for those species are proposed.

Increase in daily bag limit for overabundant Snow and Ross Geese in James Bay

the daily bag limit of Snow Geese and Ross's Geese in the portion of the islands and waters of James Bay that are south of 55°N latitude is currently restricted to 20 (subscript *g*, Table 1), whereas elsewhere in the Territory and adjoining jurisdictions in Ontario and Manitoba the limit is 50. ***It is proposed to remove this restriction and allow a daily bag limit of 50 Snow and Ross Geese across Nunavut.***

Due to habitat damage resulting from foraging activities, Snow and Ross's geese are considered an overabundant species. Geese using the islands and waters of James Bay are from the midcontinent population of Lesser Snow Geese which has continued to increase despite the implementation of more liberalized bag and possession limits (Figure 1). Therefore, rather than limiting daily harvest in any one portion of the Territory we believe hunting opportunities should be maximized across the Territory. Adjacent jurisdictions (Ontario and Manitoba) have daily bag limits of 50 Snow and Ross' geese. The James Bay area of Quebec has a daily bag limit of 20 Snow Geese but the harvest in that area of Quebec

is mainly composed of Greater Snow Geese, which are closer to population objectives than midcontinent Lesser Snow Geese.

Table 1. Summary of 2016-17 Nunavut hunting regulations (daily bag and possession limits). Proposed changes are highlighted in bold red font.

BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS IN NUNAVUT

Limits	Ducks RESIDENTS OF CANADA	Ducks NON-RESIDENTS OF CANADA	Canada Geese, Cackling Geese, White-fronted Geese and Brant RESIDENTS OF CANADA	Canada Geese, Cackling Geese, White-fronted Geese and Brant NON-RESIDENTS OF CANADA	Snow Geese and Ross's	Coots	Snipe RESIDENT S OF	Snipe NON-RESIDENTS OF CANADA
Daily bag	25(a)	8(a)	15(c)	5(e)	50(g)	25	10	10
Possession	No limit(b)	16(b) Proposed : 24	No limit(d)	10(d)(f) Proposed: 15	No limit	No limit	No limit	20 Proposed : 30

- (a) Except in that portion of the islands and waters of James Bay that are south of 55°N latitude, where the limit is 6, of which (i) not more than 2 may be American Black Ducks and 1 may be Barrow's Goldeneye, in the area west of 80°15' W longitude; and (ii) not more than 4 may be American Black Ducks, 1 may be Barrow's Goldeneye, and 1 may be Blue-winged Teal, in the area east of 80°15' W longitude.
- (b) Except in that portion of the islands and waters of James Bay that are south of 55°N latitude, where the limit is 18, of which (i) not more than 6 may be American Black Ducks and 1 may be Barrow's Goldeneye, in the area west of 80°15' W longitude; and (ii) not more than 1 may be Barrow's Goldeneye and 2 may be Blue-winged Teal, in the area east of 80°15' W longitude.
- (c) In that portion of the islands and waters of James Bay that are west of 80°15' W longitude and south of 55°N latitude, not more than 5 may be Canada Geese or Cackling Geese or any combination of them.
- (d) Except in the portion of the islands and waters of James Bay that are east of 80°15' W longitude and south of 55°N latitude, where the limit is 20.
- (e) Not more than 2 may be White-fronted Geese.
- (f) Not more than 4 **Propose 6** may be White-fronted Geese. In that portion of the islands and waters of James Bay that are west of 80°15' W longitude and south of 55°N latitude, there is no limit on Canada Geese and Cackling Geese.
- (g) Except in that portion of the islands and waters of James Bay that are south of 55°N latitude, where the limit is 20. **Propose to delete this footnote**

Figure 1. Population size and trend of the midcontinent Lesser Snow Goose population. AHY refers to adults while HY refers to juvenile birds. Taken from Leafloor et al. (2012).

