



Migratory Birds Hunting Regulations, 2017–2018

Summary



The information presented here is a summary of the law. If there is a discrepancy between the law and this summary, the law prevails. For complete information on fines, general prohibitions, permitted hunting methods and equipment, the requirement to have adequate means to retrieve birds immediately, restrictions on the use of bait, the description of hunting zones, and other restrictions on hunting, please refer to the *Migratory Birds Convention Act, 1994* and *Migratory Birds Regulations*. These, along with other useful information for hunters, can be found on the Environment and Climate Change Canada website (www.ec.gc.ca), or you may contact:

Environment and Climate Change Canada
Canadian Wildlife Service
801-1550 D'Estimauville Avenue
Québec, Quebec G1J 0C3
Tel.: 1-800-668-6767
Fax: 418-649-6591
ec.enviroinfo.ec@canada.ca

You are required to possess a valid federal Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit with a Canadian Wildlife Habitat Conservation Stamp to hunt migratory birds in Canada. This permit and stamp are valid in all provinces and territories. Most provinces and territories have additional licence requirements for hunting migratory birds and/or to carry firearms. To know what you require, and if there are further restrictions for hunting migratory birds, please verify the applicable regulations for the province/territory where you will be hunting. Note that all required permits and licences must be in your possession while you are hunting.



The Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit is now available online on the Environment and Climate Change Canada website (www.ec.gc.ca). Purchase and print your permit from the comfort of home.

Consultation Process and Migratory Birds Regulatory Reports

The hunting provisions of the *Migratory Birds Regulations* are reviewed by Environment and Climate Change Canada, with input from the provinces and territories, as well as a range of other interested stakeholders. Environment and Climate Change Canada has developed a consultation process for establishing hunting regulations for migratory birds, and publishes the Migratory Birds Regulatory Report Series that can be found on the Environment and Climate Change Canada website (www.ec.gc.ca).

New Enforcement Tool, Fine Regime, and Sentencing Provisions

In June 2017, the *Environmental Violations Administrative Monetary Penalties Regulations* came into force and administrative monetary penalties (AMPs) are now available to game officers to enforce designated violations of the *Migratory Birds Convention Act, 1994* (MBCA) and its associated regulations. In addition, amendments to the fine regime and sentencing provisions of the MBCA and the regulations necessary to complete the fine regime, the *Designation of Regulatory Provisions for the Purposes of Enforcement (Migratory Birds Convention Act, 1994) Regulations*, came into force on July 12, 2017. The amendments aim to ensure that court-imposed fines more accurately reflect the seriousness of environmental offenses. The new fine regime will be applied by courts following a conviction pursuant to the MBCA or its associated regulations. Under the new fine regime, when designated offenses are contravened, the offender upon conviction, is subject to minimum and higher maximum fines. For more information on AMPs and the new fine regime, please visit <http://www.ec.gc.ca/alef-ewe/default.asp?lang=En&n=2AAFD90B-1>.

Waterfowler Heritage Days provide young hunters who are minors (under 18 years of age) with the opportunity to practise hunting and outdoor skills, learn about wildlife conservation, and reinforce safety training in a structured, supervised environment before the season opens for other hunters. Licensed adult hunters who serve as mentors have an opportunity to pass on their considerable skills and knowledge by offering guidance and advice to younger hunters. The following rules are in effect:

- to participate, young hunters do not require the federal Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit;
- young participants must comply with all existing safety and licensing requirements found in the *Firearms Act* and provincial hunting regulations;
- participants must be accompanied by a licensed mentor (who is not a minor);
- mentors may not hunt or carry a firearm, and may accompany no more than two young hunters; and
- only young hunters may hunt when Waterfowler Heritage Days fall outside of the regular open seasons.

As per subsections 15.1(1) and 15.1(2) of the *Migratory Birds Regulations*, in Quebec, **non-toxic shot must be used to hunt all migratory game birds**, except for woodcock. **Non-toxic shot must also be used to hunt Mourning Dove**. Within National Wildlife Areas, the possession of lead shot is prohibited for all hunting, including the hunting of migratory birds and upland game birds. For those birds still hunted with lead shot, remove the lead shot before cooking to reduce your exposure to contaminants. As well, remove the skin and fat from fish-eating birds before cooking them.

Barrow's Goldeneye is listed in the *Species at Risk Act* as a species of special concern, and the **bag and possession limit of 1** remains in place.

OPEN SEASONS AND WATERFOWLER HERITAGE DAYS IN QUEBEC (No open season for Harlequin Ducks or rails)

Area	Waterfowler Heritage	Open Seasons				
	Ducks (other than Harlequin Ducks), Geese, Woodcock and Snipe, as well as Coots, Gallinules and Mourning Dove	Ducks (other than Eiders, Harlequin and Long-tailed Duck), Geese (other than Canada Geese, Cackling Geese and Snow Geese) and Snipe	Canada Geese and Cackling Geese	Eiders and Long-tailed Ducks	Coots and gallinules	Woodcock and Mourning Dove
District A	N/A	Sept. 1 to Dec. 16, 2017	Sept. 1 to Dec. 16, 2017	Sept. 1 to Dec. 16, 2017	No open season	Sept. 1 to Dec. 16, 2017 (d)
District B	Sept. 9, 2017 (d)	Sept. 16 to Dec. 30, 2017	Sept. 16 to Dec. 30, 2017	Oct. 1, 2017, to Jan. 14, 2018 (b)	No open season	Sept. 9 to Dec. 23, 2017 (d)
Districts C, D and E	Sept. 9, 2017 (d)	Sept. 16 to Dec. 30, 2017 (c)	Sept. 1 to Sept. 15, 2017 (a) Sept. 16 to Dec. 16, 2017	Sept. 16 to Dec. 30, 2017	No open season	Sept. 16, 2017, to Dec. 30, 2017 (d)
District F	Sept. 16, 2017	Sept. 23, 2017 to Jan. 6, 2018 (c)	Sept. 6 to Sept. 22, 2017 (a) Sept. 23 to Dec. 21, 2017	Sept. 23, 2017, to Jan. 6, 2018	Sept. 23, 2017, to Jan. 6, 2018	Sept. 16, 2017, to Dec. 30, 2017
District G	Sept. 23, 2017 (d)	Sept. 30 to Dec. 26, 2017	Sept. 30 to Dec. 26, 2017	Nov. 1, 2017, to Feb. 14, 2018	No open season	Sept. 30 to Dec. 26, 2017 (d)

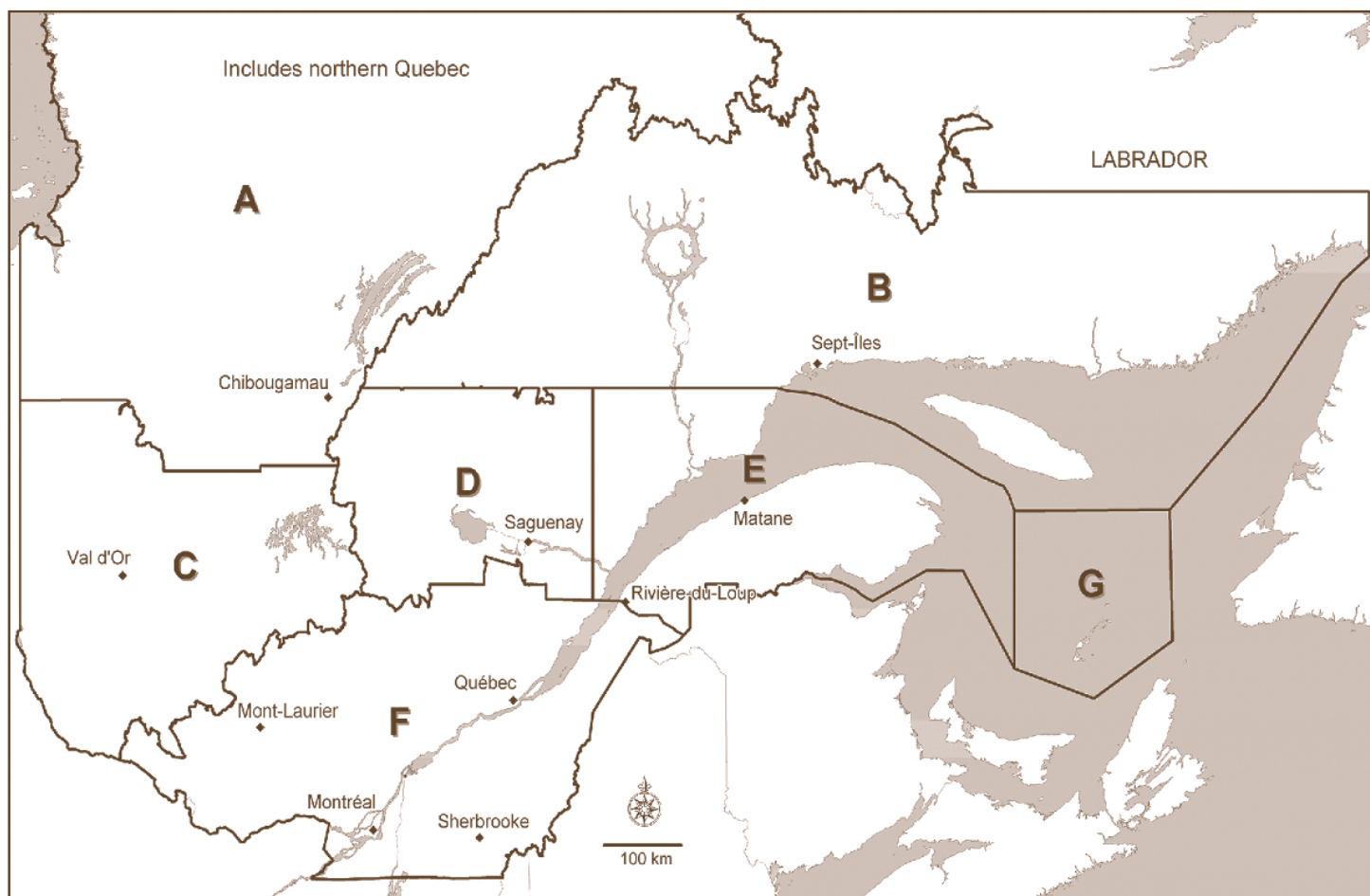
(a) In Districts C, D, E and F, hunting for Canada Geese and Cackling Geese is allowed only on farmland.

(b) In District B along the Northern Shore west of the Natashquan River, the hunting season for Eiders begins on October 1, 2017 and ends on October 24, 2017 and the hunting season for Long-tailed Ducks begins on November 15, 2017 and ends on February 5, 2018.

(c) In District E, the hunting season for Barrow's Goldeneye and Common Goldeneye closes on October 21, 2017, in Provincial Hunting Zone 21 and 100 metres beyond this zone. In District F, the open hunting season for Barrow's Goldeneye and Common Goldeneye closes on October 21, 2017, between Pointe Jureux (St. Irénée) and Gros Cap à l'Aigle (St. Fidèle) from routes 362 and 138 to 2 kilometres within Provincial Hunting Zone 21.

(d) Hunting for Mourning Dove is allowed only in District F.

Hunting Districts



BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS IN QUEBEC

Limits	Ducks	Geese (other than Snow Geese)	Snow Geese	Coots and Gallinules	Woodcock	Mourning Doves	Snipe
Daily bag	6 (a) (b) (f)	5 (d) (f)	20 (f)	4 (f)	8 (e) (f)	8 (f)	10 (f)
Possession	18 (c) (f)	20 (f) (g)	No limit	12 (f)	24 (f)	24 (f)	30 (f)

(a) Not more than 4 may be American Black Ducks, except in the portion of District F that is west of Route 155 and Highway 55, in which case not more than 2 may be American Black Ducks.

(b) Not more than 1 may be Blue-winged Teal and not more than 1 may be Barrow's Goldeneye.

(c) Not more than 2 may be Blue-winged Teal and not more than 1 may be Barrow's Goldeneye.

(d) Up to 5 additional Canada Geese or Cackling Geese, or any combination of them, may be taken daily between September 1 and September 25, 2017.

(e) For non-residents of Canada, not more than 4 woodcocks may be taken daily.

(f) Not more than 3 birds may be taken or possessed during Waterfowler Heritage Days, with the additional species restrictions described in notes (a) to (c) applying within that total.

(g) No possession limit for Canada Geese.

OVERABUNDANT SPECIES

The *Migratory Birds Regulations* also provide for special conservation harvest periods when hunters may take overabundant species. Please note that the additional hunting methods or equipment are permitted only during the special conservation harvest periods. See the table below for details.

MEASURES IN QUEBEC CONCERNING OVERABUNDANT SPECIES

Area	Period during which Snow Geese may be killed	Additional hunting method or equipment
District A	Sept. 1 to Dec. 16, 2017 May 1 to June 30, 2018	Recorded bird calls (d) (f) Recorded bird calls (d)
District B	Sept. 16 to Dec. 30, 2017	Recorded bird calls (d) (f)
Districts C and D	Sept. 1 to Sept. 15, 2017 (a), and Sept. 16 to Dec. 30, 2017 Mar. 1 to May 31, 2018 (a)	Recorded bird calls (d) (f) Recorded bird calls (d)
District E	Sept. 1 to Sept. 15, 2017 (a), and Sept. 16 to Dec. 30, 2017 Mar. 1 to May 31, 2018 (a)	Recorded bird calls (d) (f); bait crop area (e) Recorded bird calls (d); bait (e)
District F	Sept. 6 to Sept. 22, 2017 (a), and Sept. 23, 2017 to Jan. 6, 2018 Mar. 1 to May 31, 2018 (a), (b), (c)	Recorded bird calls (d) (f); bait crop area (e) Recorded bird calls (d); bait (e)
District G	Sept. 30 to Dec. 26, 2017	Recorded bird calls (d) (f)

(a) Hunting and hunting equipment are allowed only on farmland.

(b) In District F, no person shall hunt south of the St. Lawrence River and north of the road right-of-way of Route 132 between the western limit of the Montmagny municipality and the eastern limit of Cap-Saint-Ignace municipality, other than in lots 4 598 472 and 2 611 981, cadastre of Quebec

(c) In District F, on the north shore of the St. Lawrence River, no person shall hunt north of the St. Lawrence River and south of a line located at 1000 m north of Highway 40 between Montée St-Laurent and the Maskinongé River. On the south shore of the St. Lawrence River, no person shall hunt south of the St. Lawrence River and north of the railroad right-of-way located near Route 132 between the Nicolet River in the east and Lacerte Road in the west.

(d) "Recorded bird calls" refers to bird calls of a species referred to in the heading of column 2.

(e) Hunting with bait or in a bait crop area is permitted if the Regional Director has given consent in writing pursuant to section 23.3.

(f) Any species of migratory bird for which it is open season may be taken while hunting Snow Geese with recorded Snow Geese calls.

NOTE

The 2017 federal permit is also valid for the 2018 spring special conservation harvest period for Snow Geese.

100 Years of Taking Birds Under our Wings

1916-2016: The Canada-US Migratory Birds Convention

1917-2017: *The Migratory Birds Convention Act*

For more information on centennial celebrations, visit www.ec.gc.ca/bird-conservation



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ISSN 1925-6949

