

Summary of Migratory Birds Hunting Regulations

August 2025
to July 2026



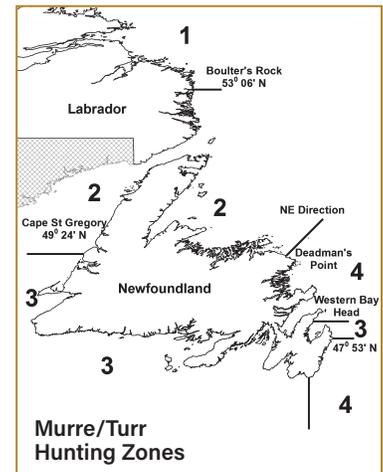
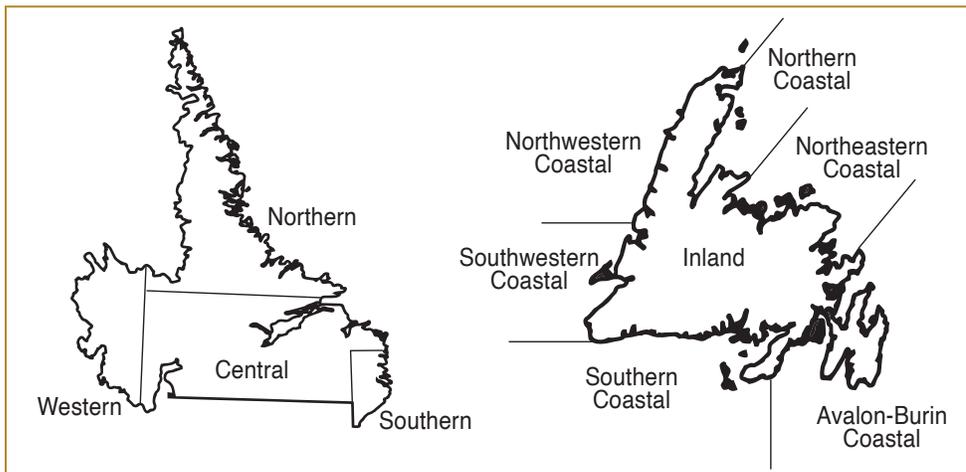
Notice: Avian influenza virus (bird flu) is a contagious viral infection that can affect domestic and wild birds throughout the world. Guidelines have been developed to prevent or mitigate the spread of this virus, and for precautionary measures to take when handling wild game. For more information, please refer to www.canada.ca/Avian-flu and the [Wildlife and Avian Influenza – Handling Guidelines to Protect Your Health](#) web page on the Government of Canada website.

To hunt migratory game birds in Canada, you must possess:

- a valid Migratory Game Bird Hunting (MGBH) Permit;
- a Canadian Wildlife Habitat Conservation Stamp on the permit.

These two documents are issued by the federal government and are valid in all provinces and territories.

Waterfowl and Snipe Hunting Zones



Northwestern Coastal Zone: bounded by a line drawn due west from Cape St. Gregory, and from there northward and eastward along the coast, ending in a boundary line drawn due northeast through Cape Bauld.

Northern Coastal Zone: bounded by a line drawn due northeast from Cape Bauld, and from there southward along the east coast, ending in a boundary line drawn due northeast through Cape St. John.

Northeastern Coastal Zone: bounded by a line drawn due northeast through Cape Bonavista, and from there in a generally westerly direction along the coast, ending at a boundary line drawn due northeast through Cape St. John.

Avalon-Burin Coastal Zone: bounded by a straight line drawn due south from Cape Rosey, and from there in a generally easterly and northerly direction along the coast, ending at a boundary line drawn due northeast from Cape Bonavista.

Southern Coastal Zone: bounded by a line drawn due west through Cape Ray, and from there southward and eastward along the coast, ending at a line drawn due south through Cape Rosey.

Southwestern Coastal Zone: bounded by a line drawn due west from Cape St. Gregory, and from there southward along the coast, ending in a boundary line drawn due west through Cape Ray.

"Coastal" refers to the portion of the coast of the Island of Newfoundland, and of the adjacent offshore islands, lying less than 100 m from the mean ordinary high-water mark and the adjacent marine coastal waters.

Newfoundland Inland Zone: the portion of the Island of Newfoundland, and of the adjacent offshore islands, that is not within the portions described above.

Northern Labrador Zone: the portion of Labrador lying north of latitude 54°24'N and east of longitude 65°W.

Western Labrador Zone: the portion of Labrador lying west of longitude 65°W.

Southern Labrador Zone: the portion of Labrador lying south of latitude 53°06'N (Boulter Rock) and east of longitude 57°06'40"W.

Central Labrador Zone: the portion of Labrador that is not within the portions described above.

For more information on hunting zones, contact the provincial Department of Fisheries, Forestry and Agriculture.

For more information on restrictions and requirements for hunting migratory game birds, please refer to the [Migratory Birds Regulations, 2022](#) (MBR), and/or consult the Government of Canada [Migratory Game Bird Hunting](#) website, which includes a [frequently asked questions](#) page.

The Canadian [Firearms Act](#) outlines the requirements for the storage, transportation and possession of firearms, as well as details requirements for licensing and registration of certain firearms. 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 and municipality where you will be hunting. Restrictions such as minimum required distances from residences and businesses for discharge of firearm may be applicable.

You can purchase an electronic MGBH Permit by visiting the Government of Canada website (www.permis-permits.ec.gc.ca).

Hunters may carry their MGBH Permit either in physical (paper) or electronic formats (such as on a mobile device). Electronic MGBH Permits must be in the PDF format provided by the e-permitting system (a photograph or screenshot of your permit is not valid). It is the hunter's responsibility to be able to show all required permits to a game officer immediately upon request.

Consultation Process and Migratory Birds Regulatory Reports

A national consultation process has been developed which includes a report on the population status of migratory game birds and a consultation document that provides an opportunity to participate in developing the hunting regulations. For more information, consult the [Migratory Birds Regulatory Report Series](#) web page on the Government of Canada website.

Youth Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit

The Youth MGBH Permit is an option available to hunters who are minors (under the age of 18 years old on the day the permit is issued). The Youth MGBH Permit, as well as the Canadian Wildlife Habitat Conservation Stamp, are free of charge and **can only be obtained through the e-permitting system (www.permis-permits.ec.gc.ca).**

The Youth MGBH Permit provides young hunters with the opportunity to practice their skills under the supervision of an adult hunter (known as a mentor) and allows them to have their own daily bag and possession limits.

Mentors must possess their own MGBH Permit, must have held a MGBH Permit in a previous year, and may accompany no more than two Youth MGBH Permit holders at a time. Mentors may carry a firearm and may hunt.

Many provinces and territories have additional licence requirements and restrictions for hunters who are minors and/or for mentors. Please consult the applicable provincial/territorial regulations.

Enforcement



Federal game officers enforce the [Migratory Birds Convention Act, 1994](#) (MBCA) and its associated regulations throughout Canada. This law regulates human activities, such as hunting, that could adversely affect wildlife conservation. Game officers may use warnings, administrative monetary penalties, tickets or prosecutions to enforce the provisions of the MBCA and its regulations. The fines and penalties that may be imposed reflect the seriousness of the offence(s). Individuals may be subject to a fine range for a first offence associated to sections of the MBR designated for the purposes of paragraph 13(1)(c) of the MBCA on summary conviction of not less than \$5,000 and not more than \$300,000, or imprisonment for a term of not more than six months, or both.

Shot

- Lead shot is toxic to wildlife and the environment.
- In Newfoundland and Labrador, the use and possession of shot other than non-toxic shot is prohibited while hunting migratory game birds other than Murres (Turrs).
- If a multi-species hunt occurs where Murres are being hunted in addition to other migratory game birds (e.g. waterfowl), it is prohibited to possess toxic shot. Hunters can still have mixed bird hunts as long as they possess and use only non-toxic shot.

To reduce your exposure to contaminants in meat, make sure, before cooking it, to:

- remove the shot from birds hunted with lead shot;
- remove the skin and fat from fish-eating birds.

Species at Risk*

- **Barrow's Goldeneye** is listed in the [Species at Risk Act](#) as a species of special concern, and the **daily bag and possession limit is 1 bird**.
- **Harlequin Duck** is listed in the [Species at Risk Act](#) as a species of special concern. There is **no open season for this species**.

Crime Stoppers

Anyone wishing to report illegal hunting activities, illegal selling of birds or other offences related to migratory birds is asked to call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS (8477). Your call is anonymous, and you may be eligible for a cash reward.

Open Season and Daily Bag and Possession Limits for Migratory Game Birds in Newfoundland and Labrador

Area	Species	Open Season	Daily Bag Limit	Possession Limit
Northwestern Coastal Newfoundland Zone	Long-tailed Ducks, Eiders and Scoters, combined	November 1 to February 15	6	12
	Common and Red-breasted Mergansers, combined	October 10 to January 24	6	12
	Ducks (other than Harlequin Ducks*, Common and Red-breasted Mergansers, Long-tailed Ducks, Eiders and Scoters), combined	September 16 to December 31	6 (not more than 1 may be Barrow's Goldeneye*)	18 (not more than 1 may be Barrow's Goldeneye*)
	All Geese, combined	September 16 to December 31	5	10
	Snipe	September 16 to December 31	10	20
Avalon-Burin Coastal Newfoundland Zone, Northeastern Coastal Newfoundland Zone, Northern Coastal Newfoundland Zone, Southern Coastal Newfoundland Zone, and Southwestern Coastal Zone	Long-tailed Ducks, Eiders and Scoters, combined	November 24 to March 10	6	12
	Common and Red-breasted Mergansers, combined	October 10 to January 24	6	12
	Ducks (other than Harlequin Ducks*, Common and Red-breasted Mergansers, Long-tailed Ducks, Eiders and Scoters), combined	September 16 to December 31	6 (not more than 1 may be Barrow's Goldeneye*)	18 (not more than 1 may be Barrow's Goldeneye*)
	All Geese, combined	September 16 to December 31	5	10
	Snipe	September 16 to December 31	10	20
Inland Newfoundland Zone	Long-tailed Ducks, Eiders and Scoters, combined	No open season	N/A	N/A
	Common and Red-breasted Mergansers, combined	October 10 to January 24	6	12
	Ducks (other than Harlequin Ducks*, Common and Red-breasted Mergansers, Long-tailed Ducks, Eiders and Scoters), combined	September 16 to December 31	6 (not more than 1 may be Barrow's Goldeneye*)	18 (not more than 1 may be Barrow's Goldeneye*)
	All Geese, combined	September 16 to December 31	5	10
	Snipe	September 16 to December 31	10	20
Northern Labrador Zone	All Eiders and Scoters, combined	September 1 to September 25, for Scoters only	6	12
		September 26 to December 16		
		December 17 to January 10, for Eiders only		
	Common and Red-breasted Mergansers, combined	September 1 to December 16	6	12
	Ducks (other than Harlequin Ducks*, Common and Red-breasted Mergansers, Eiders and Scoters), combined	September 1 to December 16	6 (not more than 1 may be Barrow's Goldeneye*)	18 (not more than 1 may be Barrow's Goldeneye*)
	All Geese, combined	September 1 to December 16	5	10
	Snipe	September 1 to December 16	10	20
Western Labrador Zone	All Eiders and Scoters, combined	September 1 to December 16	6	12
	Common and Red-breasted Mergansers, combined	September 1 to December 16	6	12
	Ducks (other than Harlequin Ducks*, Common and Red-breasted Mergansers, Eiders and Scoters), combined	September 1 to December 16	6 (not more than 1 may be Barrow's Goldeneye*)	18 (not more than 1 may be Barrow's Goldeneye*)
	All Geese, combined	September 1 to December 16	5	10
	Snipe	September 1 to December 16	10	20

Area	Species	Open Season	Daily Bag Limit	Possession Limit
Southern Labrador Zone	All Eiders and Scoters, combined	September 1 to October 31, for Scoters only	6	12
		November 1 to December 16		
		December 17 to February 15, for Eiders only		
	Common and Red-breasted Mergansers, combined	September 1 to December 16	6	12
	Ducks (other than Harlequin Ducks*, Common and Red-breasted Mergansers, Eiders and Scoters), combined	September 1 to December 16	6 (not more than 1 may be Barrow's Goldeneye*)	18 (not more than 1 may be Barrow's Goldeneye*)
	All Geese, combined	September 1 to December 16	5	10
	Snipe	September 1 to December 16	10	20
Central Labrador Zone	All Eiders and Scoters, combined	September 1 to October 24, for Scoters only	6	12
		October 25 to November 30		
		December 1 to December 16, for Scoters only		
		December 21 to February 28, for Eiders only		
	Common and Red-breasted Mergansers, combined	September 1 to December 16	6	12
	Ducks (other than Harlequin Ducks*, Common and Red-breasted Mergansers, Eiders and Scoters), combined	September 1 to December 16	6 (not more than 1 may be Barrow's Goldeneye*)	18 (not more than 1 may be Barrow's Goldeneye*)
	All Geese, combined	September 1 to December 16	5	10
	Snipe	September 1 to December 16	10	20
Murre Zone No. 1	Murres	September 1 to December 16	20	40
Murre Zone No. 2	Murres	October 6 to January 20		
Murre Zone No. 3	Murres	November 25 to March 10		
Murre Zone No. 4	Murres	November 3 to January 10		
		February 2 to March 10		

Murre (turr) hunters: This hunt is only open to residents of Newfoundland and Labrador. Murres are the only migratory bird that can be legally hunted from a boat that is moving because of motion as a result of its motor or its sails. Any occupant of a boat who shoots or retrieves Murres, or anyone who operates a boat to pursue Murres, is hunting as defined in the *Migratory Birds Regulations, 2022* and is required to hold a MGBH Permit and a Canadian Wildlife Habitat Conservation Stamp and must be a resident of Newfoundland and Labrador.

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 more information, consult the [Migratory Birds Convention Act, 1994](#), the [Migratory Birds Regulations, 2022](#), the [frequently asked questions on migratory game bird hunting](#), and other information on the Government of Canada website (www.canada.ca).

You may also direct your questions to:

**Environment and Climate Change Canada
Canadian Wildlife Service**

Regional Office

6 Bruce Street

Mount Pearl, Newfoundland and Labrador A1N 4T3

Tel.: 1-800-668-6767

enviroinfo@ec.gc.ca

Report your Migratory Bird Bands:

Call 1-800-327-BAND (2263) to leave a message or go to:

www.reportband.gov