

THE 2010 NORTHERN TERRITORY WATERFOWL HUNTING SEASON

Following careful assessment of the wetland areas and their waterfowl populations, the Minister for Parks and Wildlife has declared the 2010 waterfowl hunting season. This sheet outlines the conditions, which will apply to the hunting of waterfowl during the 2010 waterfowl hunting season. It should also answer most queries regarding the shooting of waterfowl this year. If you need additional information, the Parks and Wildlife Commission, Conservation and Wildlife Branch will be able to help you. You can ring the Commission on 8999 4486 in Darwin or on 8973 8888 in Katherine or after hours on 0401 115 702.

1. THE 2010 WATERFOWL HUNTING SEASON DATES.

The season opens at 6.15 am on Wednesday 1 September 2010 and closes at 7.30 pm Tuesday 23 December 2010 on Lambells Lagoon Conservation Reserve and Howard Springs Hunting Reserve and at 7.30pm on 30 December 2010 on the remaining two hunting reserves, Private Property and Crown Land.

2. BEFORE YOU SHOOT

If you are hunting with a shotgun you must ensure that you are in possession of a current firearm licence of the appropriate category. These can be obtained from Police Stations. You will need to bring your firearm licence with you when you apply for your hunting permit. Bow hunters do not require a firearm licence to obtain a permit, however, they will be required to complete a statutory declaration that they are a bow hunter and their permit will be endorsed for bow hunting only. You must obtain a Waterfowl Hunting Permit before you go hunting. The permit must be carried with you at all times. Application forms can be obtained from the following locations:

- Parks and Wildlife Commission - Permits Office, Ground Floor, Goyder Building, Chung Wah Terrace, Palmerston.
- At gun shops in Darwin and the rural area.
- From the Parks and Wildlife Web Page at www.nt.gov.au/nretas/wildlife/permits/hunting.html

A \$20 permit fee applies to each hunting permit.

3. ARE THERE SPECIFIC AREAS FOR HUNTING?

You may **not** hunt on or across private property (including Aboriginal owned land), unless you have the prior permission of the landholder or occupier. You may not discharge a firearm across any boundary, which includes discharging a firearm from outside a park or reserve into a park or reserve. Hunting is prohibited on parks, reserves, wilderness areas and sanctuaries or areas nominated under the *Firearms Act*, excepting Shoal Bay Coastal Reserve, Howard Springs Hunting Reserve, Lambells Lagoon Conservation Reserve and Harrison Dam Conservation Reserve.

4. WHEN CAN YOU SHOOT?

You can shoot only between 6.15am and 7.00pm each day during the month of September 2010, between 6.00am and 7.15pm each day during the month of October 2010, between 5.45am and 7.15pm during the month of November 2010 and between 5.45am and 7.30pm each day during the month of December 2010. Shooting is not permitted at night, because it is dangerous and makes identification of game species difficult, but also to allow the birds some respite.

5. WHICH WATERFOWL CAN BE SHOT DURING THE OPEN SEASON?

You can shoot Magpie Geese, Pacific Black Duck, Wandering Whistle Duck (or Water Whistle Duck), Plumed Whistle Duck (or Grass Whistle Duck), Grey Teal, Pink-eared Duck, Hardhead Duck (or White-eyed Duck) and Maned Duck (or Wood Duck).

All other waterfowl species are totally protected.

6. HOW MANY WATERFOWL CAN BE SHOT BY AN INDIVIDUAL HUNTER DURING THE HUNTING SEASON?

You can shoot up to seven ducks and seven geese each day, but you may not have more than 21 ducks and 21 geese in your possession at any one time away from your place of residence. There is no limit on the number of geese and ducks that you can have in your possession at your place of residence, e.g. in your freezer at home.

7. ARE HUNTERS PERMITTED TO EXCHANGE OR GIVE AWAY SOME OF THE BIRDS THEY SHOOT?

You are not allowed to sell, barter, dispose of or exchange any duck or goose carcass. You are permitted to share.

8. CAN A HUNTER CAPTURE AND KEEP LIVE WATERFOWL?

No.

No waterfowl can be taken or kept for Taxidermy purposes under this permit.

9. CAN DECOYS BE USED WHILE HUNTING?

Yes.

10. CAN A DOG BE USED TO RETRIEVE SHOT BIRDS?

Yes. A dog may be used to retrieve shot birds, but not to chase or harass birds. Any hunter who takes game which is not dead when recovered must immediately kill that game.

11. WHAT TYPE OF WEAPON CAN BE USED TO SHOOT WATERFOWL?

You can use a shotgun or a bow, but for safety reasons you cannot use rifles, pistols or crossbows. Shotguns larger than 10 gauge or smaller than 20 gauge may not be used.

12. WHAT ABOUT AMMUNITION?

You are required to use non toxic shot for all waterfowl hunting during the declared season.

For Magpie Geese, you can use between No. 4 Shot and BB when using any non toxic shot other than steel shot and between No. 2 Shot and BBB when using steel shot. For duck species, No. 6 Shot through to No. 1 when using any non toxic shot other than steel shot and between No. 6 Shot and BB when using steel shot. These sizes are specified to ensure birds are killed outright.

At Shoal Bay Coastal Reserve, Howard Springs Hunting Reserve, Harrison Dam Conservation Reserve and Lambells Lagoon Conservation Reserve the use of lead or zinc shot is prohibited and lead or zinc shot of the above sizes cannot be taken onto these Reserves.

13. DISPOSAL OF CARCASSES

You must not cause through carelessness, neglect or otherwise the edible portion of any waterfowl taken under your permit to go to waste needlessly, and are required at a minimum to take the meat of the breast and the meat of the thigh above the distal joint of the femur (knee).

You must ensure the proper disposal of the carcass of any waterfowl taken under your permit, and where carcasses are disposed of in the wild must disperse individual carcasses at least 5 metres apart and at least 5 metres from any track or thoroughfare.

14. JUNIOR SHOOTERS

Applicants for a Waterfowl Hunting Permit may nominate up to two (2) nominees to be listed on their permit. Nominees are limited to the applicant's children or legal wards, or children listed on a signed Parent/Guardian Approval form, between the ages of 12 to 18 years of age inclusive, who are permitted to use a firearm under adult supervision. Persons 18 years and older are eligible to obtain their own shooters licence and cannot be listed as a nominee.

Each nominee (junior shooter) listed on a permit is subject to all the terms and conditions of the permit. This includes the type of firearm that can be used, the type of ammunition that

can be used and the bag limits. For the bag limits this means that each nominee has the same bag limit as the permit holder.

In the field only one nominee (junior shooter) may be engaged in active hunting at any one time and they must be under the direct supervision of the permit holder (as required by the *Firearms Act*). Direct supervision is taken to mean that the permit holder is standing within three (3) metres of the nominee and able to intervene immediately should the nominee get into difficulty.

15. PERMIT RETURNS

For the 2010 waterfowl hunting season, it is requested that you lodge a permit return, with the Permits Office, following the close of the season. Returns are to be submitted by the 28 February 2011.

16. WHAT ARE THE PENALTIES FOR THOSE WHO DON'T COMPLY WITH THE HUNTING SEASON CONDITIONS?

For breaches of the By-law permit which allows hunting on the hunting reserves a penalty of up to \$2,000 applies, or an infringement penalty amount of \$200 may apply. For breaches of the conditions of the permit to take protected wildlife (hunt waterfowl) a penalty of up to \$6,650 or imprisonment for 6 months applies, or an infringement penalty amount of \$399 may apply. For offences of unauthorised taking or possession of protected wildlife (hunting without a permit or taking species not on the permit) a penalty of up to \$66,500 or five years imprisonment applies and in the case of threatened wildlife \$133,000 or ten years imprisonment applies. In addition, a Conservation Officer or Police Officer may seize any vehicle, vessel, aircraft, gun, ammunition and equipment associated with the offence.

All permit holders should read and become familiar with the requirements of *Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act* and *Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation By-Laws* that relate to the Waterfowl Hunting Permit.

17. SAFETY WARNING

Saltwater crocodiles are common in NT waterways and attacks can cause injury or death. Always be alert and exercise caution when adjacent to water.

18. RESPONSIBLE USE OF FIREARMS

Hunters are encouraged to join an appropriate shooting club to improve their skills and knowledge in the use of firearms.

