

CONCISE EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

In accordance with the Administrative Procedures Act, Section §42-35-2.6 of the General Laws of Rhode Island, following is a concise explanatory statement for the below identified regulation, which was subject to a public hearing on request, this was filed as a direct final.

AGENCY: Department of Environmental Management

DIVISION: Fish and Wildlife

RULE IDENTIFIER: 250-RICR-60-00-9

RULE TITLE: Hunting and Trapping Regulations for the 2019 – 2020 and 2020 – 2021 Seasons (250-RICR-60-09)

REASON FOR RULEMAKING: As the regulations currently read the late Canada goose season starts the last Saturday in January (January 25th, 2020) and extends 15 days, inclusive of the Saturday opening day (February 8th, 2020). These dates overlap with the dates outlined in section 9.11(B)(2)(a) which refer to the regular Canada goose season. Section 9.11(B)(2)(a) states that the regular season is the Saturday preceding Thanksgiving (November 23rd, 2019) through the Sunday following (December 1st, 2019) and the first Saturday in December (December 7th, 2019) extending fifty-one (51) days, inclusive of the first Saturday (January 26th, 2020).

The major discrepancy is that the bag limit during the late Canada goose season is five (5) and the bag limit during the regular Canada goose season is two (2). As our current regulations read, it would be unclear if between the dates of January 25th and January 26th the bag limit is two (2) or five (5) birds. The late Canada goose season is a special season aimed at targeting resident Canada geese while the regular Canada goose season allows for the harvest of migrant Canada geese. According to federal regulations Rhode Island may have a 60-day regular Canada goose season held between October 1st and January 31st, with a 2-bird bag limit. A special late Canada goose season may be held in designated areas from January 15th to February 15th, with a 5-bird bag limit (84 FR 16164).

TESTIMONY AND COMMENTS (for not adopting a proposed rule): None were received

CHANGES TO TEXT (between proposed and final rule): None

REGULATORY ANALYSIS: N/A