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Hearing Date: 4/2/2025

Today's Date: 4/7/2025

Agency: Ohio Department of Natural Resources Division of Wildlife

Rule Number(s): 1501:31-1-02, 1501:31-5-03, 1501:31-7-05, 1501:31-7-06, 1501:31-9-02, 1501:31-15-02, 1501:31-15-04, 1501:31-15-06, 1501:31-15-10, 1501:31-15-11, 1501:31-15-15, 1501:31-15-16, 1501:31-15-17, 1501:31-15-20, 1501:31-15-21, 1501:31-15-22, 1501:31-19-03, 1501:31-40-02,

If no comments at the hearing, please check the box. ☐

List organizations or individuals giving or submitting testimony before, during or after the public hearing and indicate the rule number(s) in question.

1. Cody Jarrett – 1501:31-7-06
2. Brent Owens – 1501:31-7-06
3. Ben Osting – 1501:31-7-06
4. Kevin Bullock – 1501:31-7-06
5. Nate Dunahay – 1501:31-7-06
6. Tony Homer – 1501:31-7-06
7. Tony Miller – 1501:31-15-10
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Hearing Summary Report

Consolidated Summary of Comments Received

Please review all comments received and complete a consolidated summary paragraph of the comments and indicate the rule number(s).

1501:31-7-06 – Six people provided testimony for this rule. The first person thanked the agency for proposing later duck hunting dates for the Lake Erie marsh zone. The second asked for the north zone to have later duck hunting dates than the Lake Erie marsh zone. The third person asked for later duck hunting dates in the north zone. The fourth testified that they supported the proposed dates for duck hunting in the north zone. The fourth person submitted written testimony and supporting documents in addition to their oral testimony. The fifth person testified that they preferred later dates for the north zone for hunting on Lake Erie. The sixth person testified that the new zones being considered for a future rule package would fix many of the issues with different date preferences for the north zone.

1501:31-15-10 – One person provided testimony for this rule opposing hunting hen turkeys during the fall season.

Hearing Summary Report

Incorporated Comments into Rule(s)

Indicate how comments received during the hearing process were incorporated into the rule(s). If no comments were incorporated, explain why not.

Lake Erie Marsh Zone duck season. The first person who spoke at the hearing thanked the agency for proposing later duck hunting dates for the Lake Erie marsh zone. We maintained the later dates as supported by the speaker in the hearing, but changed the number of days in the first hunting season segment to reflect a comment letter sent by the Lake Erie Marshowner's Association. The letter requested 16 days as opposed to 9 days in the first hunting season segment. Goose season dates were revised to be consistent with duck season dates.

North Zone duck season. The second person asked for the north zone to have later duck hunting dates than the Lake Erie Marsh Zone. The third person asked for later duck hunting dates in the north zone. The fourth testified that they supported the proposed dates for duck hunting in the north zone. They submitted written testimony and supporting documents in addition to their oral testimony. The fifth person testified that they preferred later dates for the north zone for hunting on Lake Erie. The sixth person testified that the new zones being considered for a future rule package would fix many of the issues with different date preferences for the north zone. To accommodate the request for later hunting dates in the north zone as requested by multiple speakers, we added 7 days to the end of the second hunting season segment to create a new closing date of Jan 4, 2026. We removed 7 days from the first hunting season segment to account for this change. Goose season dates were revised to be consistent with duck season dates.

South zone duck season. An online comment asked for an additional day of south zone duck season as the federal framework allows for 60 days, but does not allow the season to extend past January 31. We added 1 day, Monday, October 27, 2025, as the closure of the first hunting season segment in the south zone to provide a full 60 days of duck season in the south zone. Goose season dates were revised to be consistent with duck season dates and results in goose season opening on Sunday, November 16, 2025.

The agency is working to propose new zones in a future rule package that would realign waterfowl zones to provide dates that more closely align with hunter preferences. However, under the federal framework, the agency cannot change its current waterfowl zones until the 2026-2027 hunting season.

A fall wild turkey hunting season which includes a bag limit of one wild turkey of either sex is not detrimental to hen annual survival of wild turkeys and has no impact on subsequent wild turkey populations based on results from an ongoing research project being conducted in Ohio.