

2016-2020 Waterfowl Zone Line and Season Date Setting Process

Goals:

- Select waterfowl hunting season dates and zone lines that maximize hunter satisfaction by:
 - ◆ Providing opportunity for hunters to maximize days afield.
 - ◆ Maximizing number of waterfowl available to hunters.
 - ◆ Providing opportunities for hunters to pursue a range of waterfowl species and using diverse hunting methods.
- Promoting retention and recruitment of waterfowl hunters by selecting waterfowl hunting season dates and zone lines that are as simple and easy to understand as practical.
- Better understanding the needs and desired outcomes of waterfowl hunters.
- Increasing the transparency and support for the process of setting waterfowl regulations.

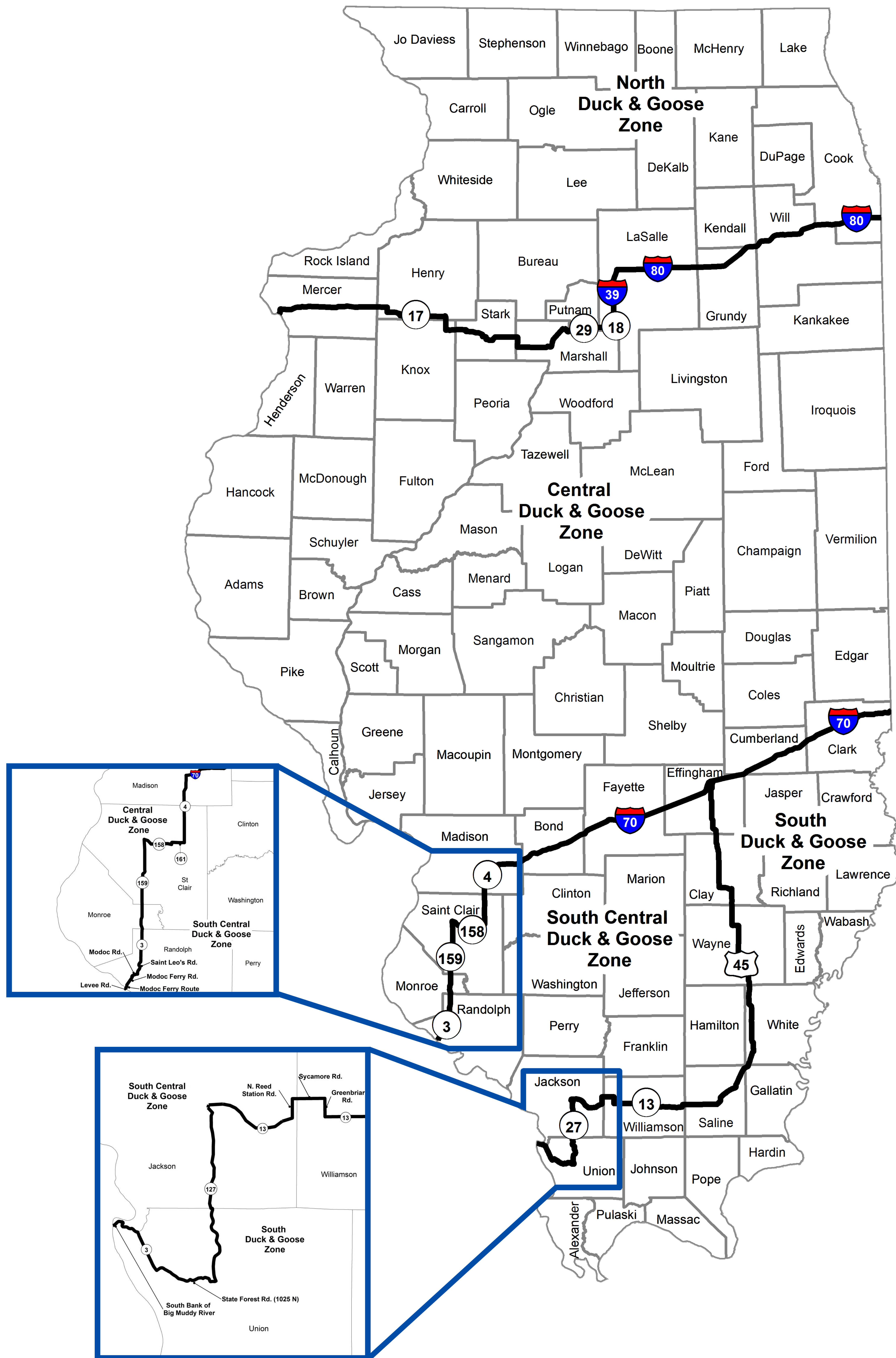
Expected Outcomes:

- Standardize waterfowl hunting season dates and zone lines for the next five years.
- Gain support of a majority (greater than 50%) of Illinois waterfowl hunters for the selected regulations as measured by the Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Survey.
- Maintain support of waterfowl hunters for the selected regulations.

Process and Timeline:

- Spring and Summer 2015 – Summarize data and develop a proposal.
 - ◆ Biological data on waterfowl abundance and freeze-up were collected and summarized.
 - ◆ Throughout spring and summer 2015 waterfowl hunter opinions from the Illinois Waterfowl Hunter Survey were summarized.
 - ◆ Preliminary proposal presented at waterfowl open houses and online; additional hunter opinions gathered through questionnaires and conversations at open houses, and through written comments.
- September 2015 – Final proposal developed based on all data collected.
 - ◆ Presented to public on IDNR website.
- October 2015 – Final proposal presented to Natural Resources Advisory Board (NRAB) and Director.
- December 2015 – Submit to US Fish and Wildlife Service establishing waterfowl hunting zones for 2016-2020 seasons. Implement waterfowl season dates for the next five waterfowl hunting seasons.

Proposed Zone Lines: 2016-2020





Proposed Waterfowl Season Dates: 2016 – 2020

Duck Season Dates:

North Zone

2016: 15 October – 13 December
2017: 21 October – 19 December
2018: 20 October – 18 December
2019: 19 October – 17 December
2020: 17 October – 15 December

Central Zone

2016: 22 October – 20 December
2017: 28 October – 26 December
2018: 27 October – 25 December
2019: 26 October – 24 December
2020: 24 October – 22 December

South Central Zone

2016: 12 November – 10 January
2017: 11 November – 9 January
2018: 10 November – 8 January
2019: 9 November – 7 January
2020: 14 November – 12 January

South Zone

2016: 24 November – 22 January
2017: 23 November – 21 January
2018: 22 November – 20 January
2019: 28 November – 26 January
2020: 26 November – 24 January

Statewide Seasons

Teal Season Dates:

2016: 3 – 18 September
2017: 9 – 24 September
2018: 8 – 23 September
2019: 7 – 22 September
2020: 5 – 20 September

Early Season Goose:

2016 – 2020: 1 – 15 September

5 Per Day North and Central Zones

2 Per Day South Central and South Zones

Canada Goose Season Dates:

North Zone

2016: 15 October – 12 January
2017: 21 October – 18 January
2018: 20 October – 17 January
2019: 19 October – 16 January
2020: 17 October – 14 January

Central Zone

2016: 22 October – 30 October, 12 November – 31 January
2017: 28 October – 5 November, 12 November – 31 January
2018: 27 October – 4 November, 12 November – 31 January
2019: 26 October – 3 November, 12 November – 31 January
2020: 24 October – 1 November, 12 November – 31 January

South Central Zone

2016: 12 November – 31 January
2017: 11 November – 31 January
2018: 10 November – 31 January
2019: 9 November – 31 January
2020: 14 November – 31 January

South Zone

2016: 24 November – 31 January
2017: 23 November – 31 January
2018: 22 November – 31 January
2019: 28 November – 31 January
2020: 26 November – 31 January

White-Fronted Goose (Specklebelly)

Season Dates:

North Zone

2016: 17 October – 12 January
2017: 23 October – 18 January
2018: 22 October – 17 January
2019: 21 October – 16 January
2020: 19 October – 14 January

Central Zone

2016 – 2020: 5 November – 31 January

South Central and South Zones will have the same dates as Canada Goose .