



Summary of the Migratory Game Bird Hunting Regulations

August 2026
to July 2027



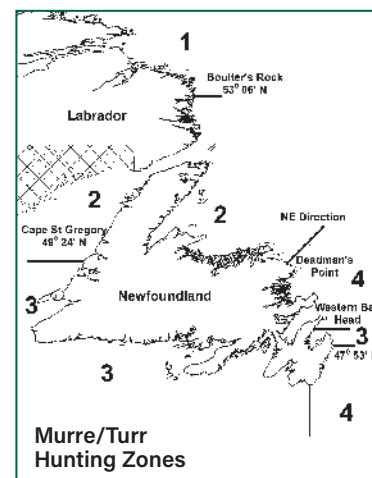
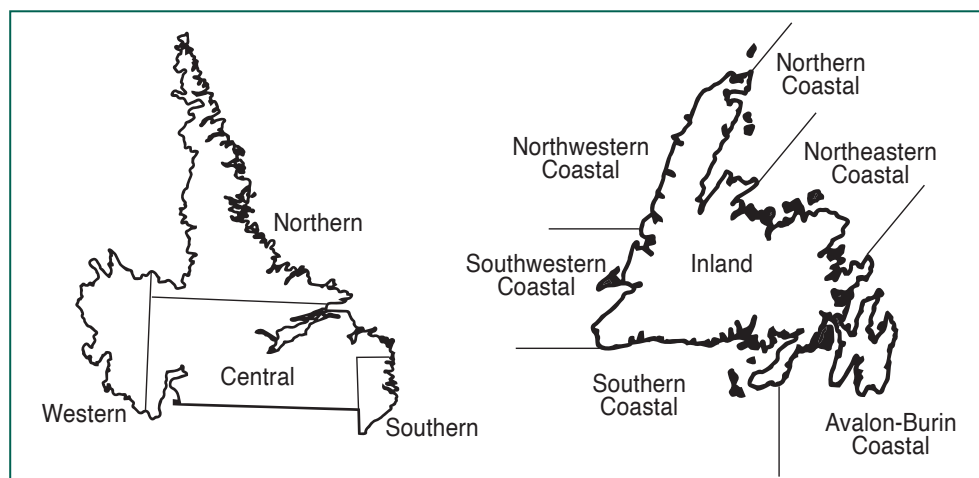
Notice: Avian influenza (bird flu) is a contagious virus that mainly affects domestic and wild birds. Follow safety guidelines to reduce the risk of spreading the virus and to protect your health when handling wild game. Learn more at "[Avian influenza in wild birds - Canada.ca](https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/avian-influenza/wild-birds.html)".

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

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

The MGBH Permit is valid anywhere in Canada where and when there is an open season to hunt migratory game birds.

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.

Hunting Restrictions and Requirements

For more information on restrictions and requirements to hunt migratory game birds, please refer to the *Migratory Birds Regulations, 2022* and/or consult "[Migratory game bird hunting - Canada.ca](https://www.mnrf.ca/migratory-game-bird-hunting-canada)", which includes a frequently asked questions page.

The Canadian *Firearms Act* outlines the requirements for the licensing, possession, storage and transportation of firearms. Learn more at rcmp.ca/en/firearms.

Most provinces and territories have additional requirements to hunt and/or carry firearms. Check the provincial/territorial and municipal regulations where you will be hunting. Restrictions such as minimum required distances from residences and businesses for the discharge of firearms may apply.

You can purchase an electronic MGBH Permit through the Regulatory Services Platform (psr-rsp.az.ec.gc.ca).

Hunters must carry their MGBH Permit with them at all times when hunting or when in possession of unpreserved migratory game birds. Permits obtained online may be presented as an electronic PDF or as a printed copy. A provincial or territorial licence may also be required. It is the hunter's responsibility to be able to show all required permits to a game officer immediately upon request.

As of the 2027–2028 hunting season, Environment and Climate Change Canada will no longer print physical (paper) copies of the hunting regulation summaries. They will continue to be available online at "[Hunting regulations for migratory birds: provincial and territorial summaries - Canada.ca](https://www.mnrf.ca/hunting-regulations-for-migratory-birds-provincial-and-territorial-summaries-canada)".

The physical MGBH Permits may be phased out as early as the 2027–2028 hunting season. Hunters will be invited to obtain their MGBH Permit through the Regulatory Services Platform.

Youth Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit

The Youth MGBH Permit is an option available to hunters who are minors (under 18 years old on the day the permit is issued). The Youth MGBH Permit and electronic CWHC Stamp are free of charge and **can only be obtained through the Regulatory Services Platform**.

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 requirements and restrictions for hunters who are minors and/or for their mentors.

Enforcement



Federal game officers enforce the *Migratory Birds Convention Act, 1994* and its associated regulations. This law regulates human activities, such as hunting, that could adversely affect the conservation of migratory birds. Game officers may use warnings, administrative monetary penalties, tickets or prosecutions. Fines and penalties vary depending on the severity of the offence. Individuals found guilty of a summary conviction for a first offence are liable to a fine between \$5,000 and \$300,000, a maximum imprisonment term of six months, or both.

Crime Stoppers

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

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, except for 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 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. 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**.

Open Seasons 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)
	Harlequin Ducks	No open season	N/A	N/A
	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 Newfoundland 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)
	Harlequin Ducks	No open season	N/A	N/A
	All geese, combined	September 16 to December 31	5	10
	Snipe	September 16 to December 31	10	20
Inland Newfoundland Zone	Long-tailed Ducks, Harlequin 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)
	Harlequin Ducks	No open season	N/A	N/A
	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)
	Harlequin Ducks	No open season	N/A	N/A
	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)
	Harlequin Ducks	No open season	N/A	N/A
	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)
	Harlequin Ducks	No open season	N/A	N/A
	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 valid MGBH Permit and must be a resident of Newfoundland and Labrador.

Hunting Hours: South of the 60th parallel, no person shall hunt earlier than half an hour before sunrise or later than half an hour after sunset.

Consultation Process and Migratory Birds Regulatory Reports

There is a national consultation process which includes a report on the population status of migratory game birds and a proposal report that provides an opportunity to participate in developing the hunting regulations. To learn more, visit "[Migratory birds regulatory report series - Canada.ca](#)".

The information presented here is a summary of the law. If there is a discrepancy between the law and this summary, the law prevails.

Contact us:
Environment and Climate Change Canada
Canadian Wildlife Service

Regional Office
6 Bruce Street
Mount Pearl, NL 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 visit:
reportband.gov

Canada