

Department of Natural Resources

Chapters:

Adopted Expedited Emergency Game and Fish Rules:

6230

6234

**2015 WATERFOWL SEASON, GAME REFUGES, AND
CONTROLLED HUNTING ZONES**

6240

PUBLISHED 09-08-2015

EFFECTIVE 09-08-2015

EXPIRES 01-30-2016

Please see the attachment for language of this expedited emergency game and fish rules package relating to the 2015 waterfowl season, game refuges, and controlled hunting zones.

1.1 **Department of Natural Resources**

1.2 **Adopted Expedited Emergency Game and Fish Rules: 2015 Waterfowl Season,**
1.3 **Game Refuges, and Controlled Hunting Zones**

1.4 **6230.0400 SPECIAL PROVISIONS FOR STATE GAME REFUGES.**

1.5 [For text of subp 1, see M.R.]

1.6 [For text of subp 2, see 40 SR 105]

1.7 [For text of subps 3 and 4, see M.R.]

1.8 [For text of subp 5, see 40 SR 105]

1.9 [For text of subps 6 to 11, see M.R.]

1.10 [For text of subp 12, see 40 SR 105]

1.11 [For text of subps 13 to 42, see M.R.]

1.12 Subp. 43. **Schoolcraft Game Refuge, Hubbard County.** The Schoolcraft Game
1.13 Refuge in Hubbard County is open to:

1.14 A. small game hunting, except waterfowl, through the Thursday nearest
1.15 November 4 and after the close of the 100 Series firearms deer season;

1.16 B. trapping; and

1.17 C. deer and bear hunting by archery.

1.18 [For text of subps 44 to 48, see M.R.]

1.19 [For text of subp 49, see 40 SR 105]

1.20 [For text of subps 50 to 54, see M.R.]

1.21 [For text of subp 55, see 40 SR 105]

1.22 [For text of subps 56 to 60, see M.R.]

1.23 [For text of subps 61 and 62, see 40 SR 105]

2.1 **6230.0600 DESCRIPTIONS OF CONTROLLED HUNTING ZONES.**

2.2 [For text of subps 1 and 2, see M.R.]

2.3 **Subp. 3. Lac qui Parle zones, Chippewa and Lac qui Parle Counties.**

2.4 A. On the Lac qui Parle Wildlife Management Area in Chippewa and Lac qui
2.5 Parle Counties, the controlled hunting zone includes the following:

2.6 the Northwest Quarter of the Southwest Quarter (NW 1/4 SW 1/4) and the Southeast
2.7 Quarter of the Southwest Quarter (SE 1/4 SW 1/4) of Section 32, Township 119
2.8 North, Range 42 West, and the Northwest Quarter of the Northeast Quarter (NW 1/4
2.9 NE 1/4) and the East Half of the Northwest Quarter (E 1/2 NW 1/4) of Section 5,
2.10 Township 118 North, Range 42 West, all in Lac qui Parle County.

2.11 And also the East Half of the Northwest Quarter (E 1/2 NW 1/4), the East Half of the
2.12 Southwest Quarter (E 1/2 SW 1/4), and the West Half of the West Half of the Southeast
2.13 Quarter (W 1/2 W 1/2 SE 1/4) of Section 12, Township 118 North, Range 42 West, the
2.14 Southeast Quarter of the Southwest Quarter (SE 1/4 SW 1/4), the Northeast Quarter
2.15 (NE 1/4) except that part lying northeasterly of State Highway 7, the East Half of the
2.16 Southeast Quarter (E 1/2 SE 1/4), and those parts of the Northwest Quarter (NW 1/4)
2.17 owned by the state and posted as "Wildlife Management Area, Controlled Hunting
2.18 Zone," all in Section 1, Township 118 North, Range 42 West, all in Chippewa County.

2.19 And also all state owned land posted as "Wildlife Management Area, Controlled
2.20 Hunting Zone" located between U.S. Highways 7 and 59 and County State-Aid
2.21 Highways 32 and 33, Chippewa County, in Sections 6 and 7, Township 118 North,
2.22 Range 41 West, and Section 36, Township 119 North, Range 42 West, all in Chippewa
2.23 County.

2.24 [For text of items B and C, see M.R.]

2.25 [For text of subps 4 to 8, see M.R.]

2.26 **6230.0700 LAC QUI PARLE SPECIAL PROVISIONS.**

2.27 [For text of subp 1, see M.R.]

2.28 **Subp. 2. Hunting stations.**

2.29 [For text of item A, see M.R.]

3.1 B. From the third Thursday in October through November 30, waterfowl
 3.2 and small game hunters ~~may reserve~~ must use designated hunting stations ~~according~~
 3.3 ~~to regulations available at the Lac qui Parle Wildlife Management Area headquarters.~~
 3.4 ~~Reservation dates may not be changed,~~ which are available on a first-come, first-served
 3.5 basis.

3.6 [For text of item C, see M.R.]

3.7 Subp. 3. [See repealer.]

3.8 [For text of subps 4 and 5, see M.R.]

3.9 Subp. 6. [See repealer.]

3.10 [For text of subps 7 to 9, see M.R.]

3.11 **6234.0800 HUNTING BY FALCONRY.**

3.12 [For text of subps 1 to 3, see M.R.]

3.13 Subp. 4. **Open season and hours for migratory game birds.** Woodcock, sora
 3.14 and Virginia rails, mourning dove, and common snipe may be taken by falconry from
 3.15 September 1 to December 16. Ducks, coots, and moorhens (Gallinules) may be taken
 3.16 by falconry from ~~the Saturday nearest October 1 to the Saturday nearest January 14~~
 3.17 September 27 to December 6 during the open seasons prescribed in part 6240.0640,
 3.18 subpart 1, and from December 13 to January 27 statewide. Geese may be taken by
 3.19 falconry during any open goose season. Crows may be taken by falconry during the open
 3.20 season. Falconry hours are from one-half hour before sunrise to sunset, except during the
 3.21 regular waterfowl season when falconry hours are the same as waterfowl shooting hours.

3.22 **6240.0200 GENERAL RESTRICTIONS FOR TAKING AND POSSESSION OF**
 3.23 **MIGRATORY GAME BIRDS.**

3.24 Subpart 1. **Shooting hours.** Shooting hours for migratory waterfowl, coots,
 3.25 gallinules, rails, and snipe are one-half hour before sunrise to sunset, except as follows:

4.1 A. ~~on the opening day of the duck season, shooting hours begin at 9:00 a.m.; and~~

4.2 B. from the opening day of the duck season to ~~the Saturday nearest October 8~~
4.3 10, shooting hours end at 4:00 p.m.

4.4 Subp. 2. **Possession limits.** The possession limit is ~~twice~~ three times the daily limit,
4.5 except for rails where the daily and possession limits are the same. All restrictions specific
4.6 to a species or gender apply.

4.7 [For text of subps 3 to 6, see M.R.]

4.8 Subp. 7. **Taking in open water.** A person may take migratory waterfowl, coots,
4.9 gallinules, rails, and snipe in open water on the following waters of Minnesota with the
4.10 restrictions given:

4.11 A. Mississippi River from the U.S. Highway 61 bridge at Hastings to the Iowa
4.12 border and lying between the main railroad tracks and the Minnesota-Wisconsin border:
4.13 hunting is allowed not more than 100 feet from any shoreline, including islands, from
4.14 boats that must be at anchor;

4.15 B. Lake Pepin, Lake of the Woods, and Lake Mille Lacs: hunting is allowed
4.16 from boats that must be at anchor; and

4.17 C. Lake Superior north and east of Minnesota/Park Point peninsula: hunting is
4.18 allowed from boats that must be at anchor.

4.19 **6240.0250 TAKING MOURNING DOVES.**

4.20 Subpart 1. **Open season.** Mourning doves may be taken during the ~~60-~~ 70-day
4.21 period beginning September 1.

4.22 [For text of subp 2, see M.R.]

5.1 **6240.0610 YOUTH WATERFOWL HUNTING DAY.**

5.2 Subpart 1. **Dates, eligibility, and license requirements.** Ducks, mergansers, coots,
5.3 moorhens, and Canada geese may be taken statewide on ~~Youth Waterfowl Hunting Day~~
5.4 Saturday, September 12, by resident and nonresident hunters 15 years of age or younger.
5.5 An adult resident or nonresident mentor 18 years of age or older, who is authorized by
5.6 the youth's parent or guardian, must accompany the youth hunter at all times during the
5.7 hunt. The accompanying adult may not hunt. No hunting license or waterfowl stamps are
5.8 required.

5.9 [For text of subps 2 and 3, see M.R.]

5.10 **6240.0630 SANDHILL CRANE HUNTING.**

5.11 Subpart 1. **Open season.** Sandhill cranes may be taken from September 12 to
5.12 October 18.

5.13 Subp. 2. **Shooting hours.** Shooting hours for sandhill cranes are one-half hour
5.14 before sunrise to sunset, except beginning on the opening day of duck season, shooting
5.15 hours are the same as the duck season under part 6240.0200, subpart 1.

5.16 Subp. 3. **Open area; restrictions on taking.**

5.17 A. Sandhill cranes may be taken only in the Northwest Goose Zone described
5.18 in part 6240.0860.

5.19 B. Taking sandhill cranes during the early goose season is prohibited on or
5.20 within 100 yards of all surface waters.

5.21 C. Sandhill cranes may be taken by bow and arrow or shotgun with nontoxic
5.22 shot approved by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service. A person may not take
5.23 sandhill cranes with a rifle or handgun.

5.24 Subp. 4. **License and permit requirements.**

6.1 A. Sandhill cranes may be taken only under:

6.2 (1) a valid permit issued by the commissioner for a fee of \$3; and

6.3 (2) a small game license, unless exempted.

6.4 B. A hunter must have a sandhill crane permit in possession when taking or
6.5 possessing sandhill cranes.

6.6 C. A hunter must not have had small or big game hunting privileges revoked
6.7 within one year of purchasing a sandhill crane permit.

6.8 Subp. 5. **Bag limits.** A person may not take more than one sandhill crane per day or
6.9 have more than three sandhill cranes in possession.

6.10 Subp. 6. **Penalties.** Violation of this part or the conditions of any permit issued
6.11 under this part results in revocation of the sandhill crane permit and any other penalties
6.12 provided by state or federal law.

6.13 Subp. 7. **Game refuges and waterfowl refuges.** All state refuges closed to
6.14 migratory waterfowl hunting are closed to taking sandhill cranes under this part. All
6.15 waterfowl refuges closed by posting to taking ducks or geese during any portion of the fall
6.16 waterfowl seasons are closed to taking sandhill cranes under this part.

6.17 **6240.0640 TAKING COOTS, MOORHENS, AND DUCKS.**

6.18 Subpart 1. **Open season.** Coots, moorhens, and ducks may be taken:

6.19 A. in the North Waterfowl Zone, described in subpart 3, during the 60-day
6.20 period from September 26 to November 24;

6.21 B. in the Central Waterfowl Zone, described in subpart 3, during the 60-day
6.22 period that includes September 26 to October 4 and October 10 to November 29; and

6.23 C. in the South Waterfowl Zone, described in subpart 3, during the 60-day
6.24 period that includes September 26 to October 4 and October 15 to December 4.

7.1 Subp. 2. **Daily limits.** In any one day, a person may not take more than six ducks,
7.2 five mergansers, and a total of 15 coots and moorhens. The daily limit of ducks, other than
7.3 mergansers, may not include more than four mallards, including two female mallards;
7.4 two pintails; two redheads; three scaup; three wood ducks; one black duck; and two
7.5 canvasbacks. The daily limit of mergansers may not include more than two hooded
7.6 mergansers.

7.7 Subp. 3. **Waterfowl zones.** Zones for ducks and geese are designated and described
7.8 as follows:

7.9 A. the North Waterfowl Zone is that portion of the state north of a line beginning
7.10 on Minnesota Highway 210 at the western boundary of the state; thence along Minnesota
7.11 Highway 210 to Minnesota Highway 23; thence along Minnesota Highway 23 to Minnesota
7.12 Highway 39; thence along Minnesota Highway 39 to the eastern boundary of the state;

7.13 B. the South Waterfowl Zone is that portion of the state south of a line extending
7.14 east from the South Dakota state line along U.S. Highway 212 to Interstate 494; thence
7.15 east along Interstate 494 to Interstate 94; thence east along Interstate 94 to the Wisconsin
7.16 state line; and

7.17 C. the Central Waterfowl Zone is that portion of the state that is not included in
7.18 the North or South Waterfowl Zone.

7.19 **6240.0950 TAKING CANADA GEESE.**

7.20 Subpart 1. **Open season.** Canada geese may be taken:

7.21 A. in the North Waterfowl Zone, described in part 6240.0640, subpart 3, during
7.22 the 90-day period from September 26 to December 23;

7.23 B. in the Central Waterfowl Zone, described in part 6240.0640, subpart 3, during
7.24 the period that includes September 26 to October 4 and October 10 to December 28; and

8.1 C. in the South Waterfowl Zone, described in part 6240.0640, subpart 3, during
8.2 the period that includes September 26 to October 4 and October 15 to January 2.

8.3 Subp. 2. **Daily limit.** A person may not take more than three dark geese each day.
8.4 "Dark geese" means Canada, white-fronted, and brant geese.

8.5 **6240.1150 TAKING SNOW, BLUE, ROSS', AND WHITE-FRONTED GEESE**
8.6 **AND BRANT.**

8.7 Subpart 1. **Seasons.** Snow, blue, Ross', and white-fronted geese and brant may
8.8 be taken only in areas of the state when and where the Canada goose season is open
8.9 as described in part 6240.0950.

8.10 Subp. 2. **Daily limit.** A person may not take more than 20 snow, blue, and Ross'
8.11 geese in combination; ~~one white-fronted goose; and one brant~~ each day.

8.12 **6240.1200 TAKING GEESE DURING EARLY SEASON.**

8.13 [For text of subps 1 to 3, see M.R.]

8.14 Subp. 4. **Daily limits.** A person may not take more than five Canada geese per day
8.15 during the early season, except that the bag limit is ten in the open area for the August
8.16 Canada goose management harvest described in part 6240.0650, published in the State
8.17 Register, volume 40, page 119, August 3, 2015.

8.18 [For text of subp 5, see M.R.]

8.19 **6240.1850 REFUGES OPEN TO TAKING GEESE.**

8.20 [For text of subp 1, see M.R.]

8.21 Subp. 2. **Game refuges.**

8.22 ~~A.~~ The following ~~refuges are~~ refuge is open to goose hunting during the first
8.23 two days of the regular goose season: ~~Fox Lake Game Refuge in Martin County and the~~
8.24 ~~Saint James Game Refuge in Watonwan County.~~

9.1 ~~B. The Fox Lake Game Refuge is open to goose hunting for the last seven~~
9.2 ~~days of the statewide goose season. There is no goose hunting within 100 yards of Fox~~
9.3 ~~and Temperence Lakes.~~

9.4 [For text of subp 3, see M.R.]

9.5 **6240.2000 MIGRATORY WATERFOWL FEEDING AND RESTING AREA**
9.6 **RESTRICTIONS.**

9.7 [For text of subps 1 to 3, see M.R.]

9.8 Subp. 4. **Use of electric motors.** On the lakes listed in items A to J M, a person
9.9 may use an electric motor with battery power of 12 volts or less within the designated
9.10 migratory waterfowl feeding and resting area during the open waterfowl season:

- 9.11 A. Beltrami County: Puposky Lake, Little Puposky Lake;
- 9.12 B. Carver County: Tiger Lake;
- 9.13 C. Faribault and Blue Earth Counties: Minnesota Lake;
- 9.14 D. Freeborn County: Bear Lake, Upper Twin Lake;
- 9.15 E. Jackson County: South Heron Lake, North Heron Lake;
- 9.16 F. Kandiyohi County: ~~Wagona~~ Wakanda Lake, Lake Lillian;
- 9.17 G. McLeod County: Bakers Lake, Unnamed Lake, in T. 114 N., R. 29W, S. 28;
- 9.18 H. Polk County: Turtle Lake;
- 9.19 I. Pope County: Nelson Lake; ~~and~~
- 9.20 J. Traverse County: Mud Lake; ~~;~~
- 9.21 K. Le Sueur County: Diamond Lake;
- 9.22 L. Le Sueur County: Dora Lake; and
- 9.23 M. Le Sueur County: Sanborn Lake.

10.1 **REPEALER.** Minnesota Rules, part 6230.0700, subparts 3 and 6, are repealed.

10.2 **EFFECTIVE PERIOD.** The emergency amendments to Minnesota Rules, parts
10.3 6230.0400, 6230.0600, 6230.0700, 6234.0800, 6240.0200, 6240.0250, 6240.0610,
10.4 6240.1150, 6240.1200, 6240.1850, and 6240.2000, expire January 30, 2016. After
10.5 the emergency amendments expire, the permanent rules as they read prior to those
10.6 amendments again take effect, except as they may be amended by permanent rule.

10.7 Minnesota Rules, parts 6240.0630, 6240.0640, and 6240.0950, expire January 30, 2016.