

**Department of Natural Resources**

**Chapters:**

**Adopted Expedited Emergency Game and Fish Rules:**

**6230**

**6234**

**2017 WATERFOWL SEASON**

**6240**

**PUBLISHED 05-30-2017**

**EFFECTIVE 05-30-2017**

**EXPIRES 01-30-2018**

Please see the attachment for language of this expedited emergency game and fish rules package relating to the 2017 waterfowl season and refuges.

1.1 **Department of Natural Resources**

1.2 **Adopted Expedited Emergency Game and Fish Rules: 2017 Waterfowl Season**

1.3 **6230.0400 SPECIAL PROVISIONS FOR STATE GAME REFUGES.**

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

1.5 Subp. 2. **Bemidji Game Refuge, Beltrami County.** The Bemidji Game Refuge  
1.6 in Beltrami County is open to:

1.7 [For text of item A, see 41 SR 178]

1.8 B. ~~Canada goose hunting during the early goose season~~ within the established  
1.9 September dates before the regular waterfowl season opener, except on Lake Bemidji,  
1.10 the Mississippi River, and Stump Lake;

1.11 [For text of items C and D, see M.R.]

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

1.13 Subp. 5. **Clay County Game Refuge, Clay County.** The Clay County Game  
1.14 Refuge in Clay County is open to:

1.15 [For text of item A, see 41 SR 178]

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

1.17 D. ~~Canada goose hunting during the early goose season~~ within the established  
1.18 September dates before the regular waterfowl season opener.

1.19 [For text of subps 6 to 8, see M.R.]

1.20 Subp. 9. **Elizabeth and German Lake Game Refuges, Isanti County.** The  
1.21 Elizabeth and German Lake Game Refuges in Isanti County are open to all hunting and  
1.22 trapping, except waterfowl. The refuges are open for goose hunting ~~during the early goose~~  
1.23 ~~season~~ within the established September dates before the regular waterfowl season opener.

2.1 Youth who are accompanied by a nonhunting adult and participating in a mentoring  
2.2 program approved by the commissioner may hunt waterfowl on youth waterfowl day.

2.3 [For text of items A to D, see M.R.]

2.4 [For text of subp 10, see M.R.]

2.5 Subp. 11. **Evansville Game Refuge, Douglas County.** The Evansville Game  
2.6 Refuge in Douglas County is open to:

2.7 A. trapping;

2.8 B. ~~Canada goose hunting during the early goose season~~ within the established  
2.9 September dates before the regular waterfowl season opener; and

2.10 C. deer and bear hunting by firearms.

2.11 [For text of subp 12, see 41 SR 178]

2.12 Subp. 13. **Fox Lake Game Refuge, Martin County.** The Fox Lake Game Refuge in  
2.13 Martin County is open to:

2.14 [For text of items A and B, see M.R.]

2.15 C. ~~special-goose hunts~~ goose hunting within the established September dates  
2.16 before the regular waterfowl season opener;

2.17 [For text of items D and E, see M.R.]

2.18 [For text of subps 14 to 32, see M.R.]

2.19 Subp. 33. **Ocheda Lake Game Refuge, Nobles County.** The Ocheda Lake Game  
2.20 Refuge in Nobles County is open to:

2.21 [For text of items A to C, see M.R.]

2.22 D. ~~Canada goose hunting during the early season~~ within the established  
2.23 September dates before the regular waterfowl season opener and from the first Saturday in

3.1 December through the end of the statewide goose season, except that hunting is prohibited  
3.2 within 100 yards of surface water during the early goose season; and

3.3 [For text of item E, see M.R.]

3.4 [For text of subps 34 to 38, see M.R.]

3.5 Subp. 39. **Rochester Refuge, Olmsted County.** The Rochester Refuge in Olmsted  
3.6 County is open to:

3.7 A. small game hunting, except waterfowl other than geese. Geese may be taken  
3.8 ~~during the early goose season only~~ within the established September dates before the  
3.9 regular waterfowl season opener;

3.10 [For text of items B to D, see M.R.]

3.11 [For text of subp 40, see M.R.]

3.12 Subp. 41. **St. James Game Refuge, Watonwan County.** The St. James Game  
3.13 Refuge in Watonwan County is open to:

3.14 A. trapping; and

3.15 B. ~~special goose hunts~~ goose hunting within the established September dates  
3.16 before the regular waterfowl season opener.

3.17 [For text of subp 42, see M.R.]

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

3.20 A. small game hunting, except waterfowl, through the Thursday nearest  
3.21 November 4 and after the close of the 100 series firearms deer season;

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

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

4.1 [For text of subp 49, see 41 SR 178]

4.2 [For text of subps 50 to 53, see M.R.]

4.3 Subp. 54. [See repealer.]

4.4 [For text of subp 55, see 41 SR 178]

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

4.6 [For text of subps 61 and 62, see 41 SR 178]

4.7 [For text of subp 63, see 40 SR 1019]

4.8 **6230.0600 DESCRIPTIONS OF CONTROLLED HUNTING ZONES.**

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

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

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

4.13 The Northwest Quarter of the Southwest Quarter (NW 1/4 SW 1/4) and the Southeast  
4.14 Quarter of the Southwest Quarter (SE 1/4 SW 1/4) of Section 32, Township 119  
4.15 North, Range 42 West, and the Northwest Quarter of the Northeast Quarter (NW 1/4  
4.16 NE 1/4) and the East Half of the Northwest Quarter (E 1/2 NW 1/4) of Section 5,  
4.17 Township 118 North, Range 42 West, all in Lac qui Parle County.

4.18 And also the East Half of the Northwest Quarter (E 1/2 NW 1/4), the East Half of the  
4.19 Southwest Quarter (E 1/2 SW 1/4) and the West Half of the West Half of the Southeast  
4.20 Quarter (W 1/2 W 1/2 SE 1/4) of Section 12, Township 118 North, Range 42 West, the  
4.21 Southeast Quarter of the Southwest Quarter (SE 1/4 SW 1/4), the Northeast Quarter  
4.22 (NE 1/4) except that part lying northeasterly of State Highway 7, the East Half of the  
4.23 Southeast Quarter (E 1/2 SE 1/4), and those parts of the Northwest Quarter (NW 1/4)  
4.24 owned by the state and posted as "Wildlife Management Area, Controlled Hunting  
4.25 Zone," all in Section 1, Township 118 North, Range 42 West, all in Chippewa County.

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

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

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

5.3 **6230.0700 LAC QUI PARLE SPECIAL PROVISIONS.**

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

5.5 Subp. 2. **Hunting stations.**

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

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

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

5.12 Subp. 3. [See repealer.]

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

5.14 Subp. 6. [See repealer.]

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

5.16 **6234.0800 HUNTING BY FALCONRY.**

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

5.18 Subp. 4. **Open season and hours for migratory game birds.** Woodcock, sora  
 5.19 and Virginia rails, mourning dove, and common snipe may be taken by falconry from  
 5.20 September 1 to December 16. Ducks, coots, and moorhens (Gallinules) may be taken by  
 5.21 falconry ~~from the Saturday nearest October 1 to the Saturday nearest January 14~~ during  
 5.22 the open seasons as prescribed in part 6240.0640, subpart 1, and from December 16  
 5.23 through January 30, 2018, statewide. Geese may be taken by falconry during any open  
 5.24 goose season. Crows may be taken by falconry during the open season. Falconry hours are

6.1 from one-half hour before sunrise to sunset, except during the regular waterfowl season  
 6.2 when falconry hours are the same as waterfowl shooting hours.

6.3 **6240.0200 GENERAL RESTRICTIONS FOR TAKING AND POSSESSION OF**  
 6.4 **MIGRATORY GAME BIRDS.**

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

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

6.8 B. from the opening day of the duck season ~~to the Saturday nearest~~ through  
 6.9 October 8 6, shooting hours end at 4:00 p.m.

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

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

6.14 Subp. 4. **Use of motorized watercraft.** A person may use motorized watercraft in  
 6.15 the waterfowl feeding and resting area established on South Heron Lake ~~during the goose~~  
 6.16 ~~season established in part 6240.1200~~ September 2 through 17.

6.17 [For text of subps 5 and 6, see M.R.]

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

6.21 A. Mississippi River from the US Highway 61 bridge at Hastings to the Iowa  
 6.22 border and lying between the main railroad track and the Minnesota-Wisconsin border:  
 6.23 hunting is allowed not more than 100 feet from any shoreline, including islands, from  
 6.24 boats that must be at anchor;

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

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

7.5 **6240.0250 TAKING MOURNING DOVES.**

7.6 Subpart 1. **Open season.** Mourning doves may be taken during the ~~60-day~~ 90-day  
7.7 period beginning September 1.

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

7.9 **6240.0610 YOUTH WATERFOWL HUNTING DAY.**

7.10 Subpart 1. **Dates, eligibility, and license requirements.** Ducks, mergansers, coots,  
7.11 moorhens, and Canada geese may be taken statewide on Youth Waterfowl Hunting Day<sub>2</sub>  
7.12 Saturday September 9, by resident and nonresident hunters 15 years of age or younger.  
7.13 An adult resident or nonresident mentor 18 years of age or older, who is authorized by  
7.14 the youth's parent or guardian, must accompany the youth hunter at all times during the  
7.15 hunt. The accompanying adult may not hunt. No hunting license or waterfowl stamps are  
7.16 required.

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

7.18 **6240.0630 TAKING SANDHILL CRANE.**

7.19 Subpart 1. Open season. Sandhill cranes may be taken from September 16 through  
7.20 October 22.

7.21 Subp. 2. Shooting hours. Shooting hours for sandhill cranes are a half hour before  
7.22 sunrise to sunset, except beginning on the opening day of duck season shooting hours are  
7.23 the same as the duck season as described in part 6240.0200, subpart 1.

7.24 Subp. 3. Open area; taking restrictions.



8.1 A. Sandhill cranes may be taken only in the Northwest Goose Zone as described  
8.2 in part 6240.0860, subpart 1.

8.3 B. Taking sandhill cranes September 2 through 17 is prohibited on or within  
8.4 100 yards of all surface waters.

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

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

8.9 A. Sandhill cranes may only be taken under:

8.10 (1) a valid permit to take sandhill cranes issued by the commissioner for a  
8.11 fee of \$3; and

8.12 (2) a small-game license, unless exempted.

8.13 B. A hunter must have a permit to take sandhill cranes in possession when  
8.14 taking or possessing sandhill cranes.

8.15 C. A hunter must not have had small- or big-game hunting privileges revoked  
8.16 within one year of purchasing a permit to take sandhill cranes.

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

8.19 Subp. 6. **Penalties.** Violating this part or the conditions of any permit issued under  
8.20 this part results in revocation of the permit and any other penalty provided by state  
8.21 or federal law.

8.22 Subp. 7. **Game and waterfowl refuges.** All state game refuges closed to  
8.23 migratory-waterfowl hunting are closed to taking sandhill cranes under this part. All

9.1 waterfowl refuges closed by posting to taking ducks or geese during any portion of the fall  
9.2 waterfowl seasons are closed to taking sandhill cranes under this part.

9.3 **6240.0640 TAKING COOTS, MOORHENS, AND DUCKS.**

9.4 Subpart 1. **Open season.** Coots, moorhens, and ducks may be taken as follows:

9.5 A. in the North Waterfowl Zone, as described in part 6240.0620, subpart 2,  
9.6 during the 60-day period from September 23 through November 21;

9.7 B. in the Central Waterfowl Zone, as described in part 6240.0620, subpart 4,  
9.8 during the 60-day period that includes September 23 through October 1 and October 7  
9.9 through November 26; and

9.10 C. in the remainder of the state during the 60-day period that includes  
9.11 September 23 through October 1 and October 14 through December 3.

9.12 Subp. 2. **Daily limits.** In any one day, a person may not take more than six ducks,  
9.13 five mergansers, and a total of 15 coots and moorhens. The daily limit of ducks, other than  
9.14 mergansers, may not include more than four mallards, including two female mallards; one  
9.15 pintail; two redheads; three scaup; three wood ducks; two black ducks; and two canvasback.  
9.16 The daily limit of mergansers may not include more than two hooded mergansers.

9.17 **6240.0950 TAKING GEESE.**

9.18 Subpart 1. **Open season.** Geese may be taken as follows:

9.19 A. in the North Waterfowl Zone, as described in part 6240.0620, subpart 2,  
9.20 September 23 through December 22;

9.21 B. in the Central Waterfowl Zone, as described in part 6240.0620, subpart 4,  
9.22 September 23 through October 1 and October 7 through December 27;

9.23 C. in the South Waterfowl Zone, as described in part 6240.0620, subpart 3,  
9.24 September 23 through October 1 and October 14 through January 3, 2018; and

10.1 D. statewide September 2 through 17.

10.2 Subp. 2. **Daily limit.** From September 2 through 17, the bag limit for dark geese is  
 10.3 five combined and the bag limit for light geese is 20 combined. After September 17, a  
 10.4 person may not take more than three dark geese or 20 light geese statewide. Dark geese  
 10.5 are Canada, brant, and white-fronted geese. Light geese are snow, blue, and Ross's geese.

10.6 **6240.1850 REFUGES OPEN TO TAKING GEESE.**

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

10.8 Subp. 2. **Game refuges.**

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

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

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

10.17 **6240.2000 MIGRATORY WATERFOWL FEEDING AND RESTING AREA**  
 10.18 **RESTRICTIONS.**

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

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

10.23 [For text of items A to E, see M.R.]

10.24 F. Kandiyohi County: ~~Wagonga~~ Wakanda Lake, Lake Lillian;

11.1 [For text of items G and H, see M.R.]

11.2 I. Pope County: Nelson Lake; ~~and~~

11.3 J. Traverse County: Mud Lake; and

11.4 K. Le Sueur County: Diamond Lake, Dora Lake, Sanborn Lake.

11.5 **REPEALER.** Minnesota Rules, parts 6230.0400, subpart 54; 6230.0700, subparts 3 and  
11.6 6; 6240.1150, subpart 2; 6240.1200, subparts 3, 4, and 5; and 6240.1800, subpart 1, are  
11.7 repealed.

11.8 **EFFECTIVE PERIOD.** The emergency amendments to Minnesota Rules, parts  
11.9 6230.0400, 6230.0600, 6230.0700, 6234.0800, 6240.0200, 6240.0250, 6240.0610,  
11.10 6240.1150, 6240.1200, 6240.1800, 6240.1850, and 6240.2000, expire January 30, 2018.  
11.11 After the emergency amendments expire, the permanent rules as they read before those  
11.12 amendments again take effect, except as they may be amended by permanent rule.  
11.13 Minnesota Rules, parts 6240.0630, 6240.0640, and 6240.0950, expire January 30, 2018.