
Duck Hunting Information

Florida Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC)

Phone Number - (888)404-FWCC (3922)

To report wildlife law violations: from cell phone *FWC, #FWC, or myfwc.com

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission - MyFWC.com

Waterfowl habitat covers vast expanses of Florida, and much of this habitat is open and available for public hunting. This document introduces the reader to duck hunting in Florida and identifies some popular duck hunting areas. Easy access to hunting areas and a hunter success rate that is nearly twice the national average makes Florida a great place to duck hunt. Respect for the resource and good hunter ethics will help ensure that Florida continues its terrific water fowling tradition.

What Kind of Ducks Can I Expect to See?

Approximately 20 species of waterfowl regularly winter in Florida. Deep marshes with lily pads and hydrilla mats attract ring-necked ducks and coots. Blue and green-winged teal, shovelers and other puddle ducks frequent shallow emergent marsh. Large numbers of redheads winter on the gulf coast. Scaup (bluebills) congregate in brackish marsh and lagoons. In addition, mottled ducks, wood ducks, black-bellied whistling ducks and fulvous whistling ducks live in the state year-round and use many wetland types.

Where Can I Hunt?

In general, waterfowl hunting is permitted on any water body that has public access, unless it is closed for a specific reason such as being in a park or in an area where discharge of firearms is prohibited, managed lands such as wildlife management areas (WMAs), water management district (WMD) lands, and national wildlife refuges (NWRs).

2016-2017 Waterfowl Season Dates

Early Canada Goose: Sept. 3-25, 2016

September Teal and Wood Duck: Sept. 17-21, 2016

September Teal Only: Sept. 22-25, 2016

Regular Season (Ducks, Coots, and Light Geese): Nov. 19 - Nov. 27, 2016 and Dec. 10, 2016 - Jan. 29, 2017

Regular Season Canada Goose: Nov. 19 - Nov. 27, 2016 and Dec. 1, 2016 - Jan. 30, 2017

Youth Duck and Goose: Feb. 4-5, 2017

Licensing

A migratory bird permit is a free federal permit required to take migratory birds in Florida. It must be used in conjunction with a hunting license, Florida waterfowl permit and a Federal Duck Stamp to take waterfowl. Only a migratory bird permit issued in Florida is valid to use in Florida. Unlike the federal duck stamp that is valid in all states, a migratory bird permit issued by FWC is only valid in this state.

Federal duck stamp

A federal duck stamp can be purchased through the FWC's Licensing System, the United States Postal Service, and anywhere hunting and fishing licenses are sold. When you purchase a federal duck stamp from the FWC, you will receive a temporary 45 day stamp. During that 45 days the federal government will mail you the pictorial duck stamp. Note: All federal duck stamps and permits expire on June 30, regardless of when purchased.

Harassment of Hunters

379.105 Harassment of hunters, trappers, or fishers.—

(1) A person may not intentionally, within a publicly or privately owned wildlife management or fish management area or on any state-owned water body:

(a) Interfere with or attempt to prevent the lawful taking of fish, game, or nongame animals by another.

(b) Attempt to disturb fish, game, or nongame animals or attempt to affect their behavior with the intent to prevent their lawful taking by another.

(2) Any person who violates this section commits a Level Two violation under s. 3