

Migratory Birds Hunting Regulations, 2005

Watch for this loon on blue signs marking National Wildlife Areas and Migratory Bird Sanctuaries.



Summary



The information presented here is a summary of the law. For complete information regarding fines, general prohibitions, permitted methods of hunting and equipment, the requirement to have adequate means to retrieve birds immediately, restrictions on the use of bait, description of hunting zones, and other regulations, you may contact:

Enforcement Coordinator
Canadian Wildlife Service
P.O. Box 1201
Lewisporte, Newfoundland A0G 3A0
Tel.: (709) 535-0601
Fax: (709) 535-2743
www.ns.ec.gc.ca/wildlife/index.html

Check your permit and provincial hunting regulations for additional restrictions. The season length and bag limit restrictions implemented in 1998 for eiders, Long-tailed Ducks (Oldsquaw or hounds), scoters, and mergansers remain in effect. Note that in some winters, such as experienced in early 2005, heavy ice conditions make sea ducks very vulnerable to high harvest. Should these conditions reoccur in 2006, the Canadian Wildlife Service may decide to implement partial closures in affected zones. In this case, there will be announcements in local newspapers and on radio.

Reminder: it is illegal to hunt migratory birds, including sea ducks, from a power boat unless the motor is not in operation and all forward progress of the boat has ceased. This regulation does not apply to persons hunting murre (turrs).

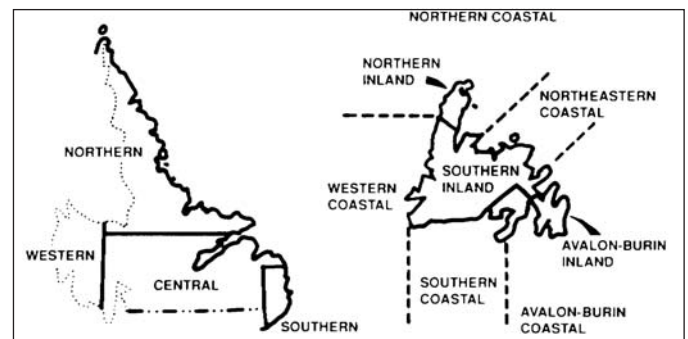
Attention murre (turr) hunters: In the 2005-06 season, **all** hunters must purchase and be in possession of a Migratory Game Bird Hunting Permit and Habitat Conservation Stamp while hunting murre (turrs). Season length and bag limits for hunting murre remain in effect. The non-toxic shot regulation described below does not apply to murre/turrs.

Non-toxic shot must be used in **all** areas of Canada to hunt migratory game birds, except for woodcock, Band-tailed Pigeons, murre (turrs), and Mourning Doves. Within National Wildlife Areas, the possession of lead shot is prohibited for all hunting, including the hunting of migratory birds and upland game birds. Hunters should consult provincial or territorial regulations for additional restrictions.

For those birds still hunted with lead shot, remove the lead shot before cooking whenever possible in order to reduce your exposure to contaminants. As well, remove the skin and fat from fish-eating birds before cooking them.

Canadians may be exposed to the West Nile virus when bird-watching, hunting, or handling migratory birds and other wild game. Environment Canada recommends that you consult the following Web site, maintained by Health Canada, for information about minimizing the risk of exposure:
www.hc-sc.gc.ca/english/westnile/animals.html.

Waterfowl and Snipe Hunting Zones



“Coastal” refers to that portion of the coast lying within 100 metres of the mean ordinary high-water mark, including the coastal portions of offshore islands and the adjacent marine coastal waters.

CRIME STOPPERS

Hunting violations may be reported to the Canadian Wildlife Service office, your local RCMP detachment, or Crime Stoppers (1-800-363-8477).

OPEN SEASONS ON THE ISLAND OF NEWFOUNDLAND (No open season for Harlequin Ducks**)

Area	Ducks, including mergansers (other than Oldsquaw*, Harlequin Ducks**, eiders, and scoters), geese, and snipe	Oldsquaw*, eiders, and scoters
All Coastal Zones	Third Saturday of September to second Saturday of December	Fourth Saturday of November to the last day of February
All Inland Zones	Third Saturday of September to second Saturday of December	No open season

* Oldsquaw ducks are now referred to as Long-tailed Ducks.

BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS ON THE ISLAND OF NEWFOUNDLAND

Limits	Ducks (other than mergansers, Oldsquaw*, Harlequin Ducks**, eiders, and scoters)	Mergansers	Oldsquaw*, eiders, and scoters	Geese	Snipe
Daily bags	6(a)	6	6(c)	5	10
Possession	12(b)	12	12(d)	10	20

- (a) Not more than four may be American Black Ducks.
 (b) Not more than eight may be American Black Ducks.
 (c) After the first Monday in February not more than three may be eiders.
 (d) After the first Monday in February not more than six may be eiders.
 * Oldsquaw ducks are now referred to as Long-tailed Ducks.

OPEN SEASONS IN LABRADOR (No open season for Harlequin Ducks**)

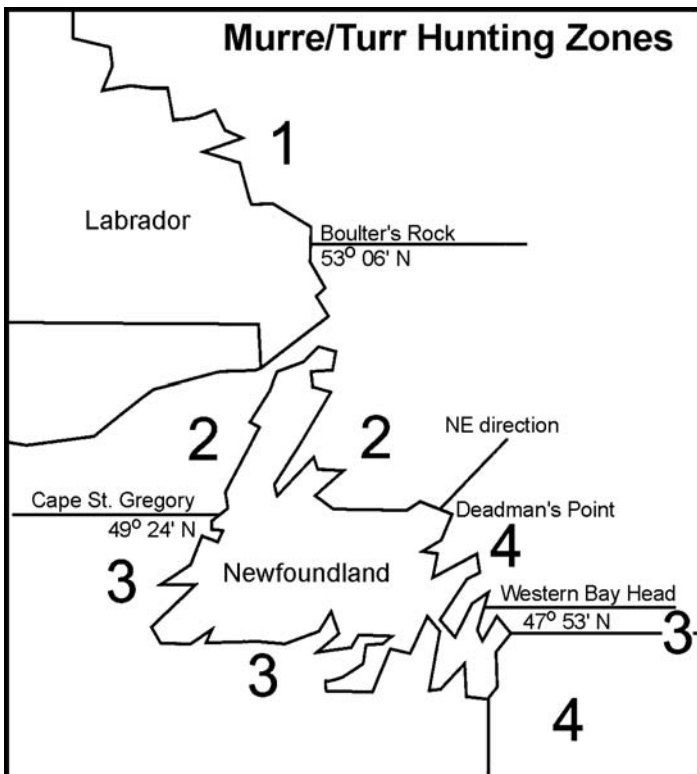
Area	Ducks (other than Harlequin Ducks** and eiders), geese, and snipe	Eiders
Northern Labrador Zone	First Saturday in September to second Saturday in December	Last Saturday in September to second Saturday in January
Western Labrador Zone	First Saturday in September to second Saturday in December	No open season
Southern Labrador Zone	Second Saturday in September to third Saturday in December	Fourth Saturday in November to last day of February
Central Labrador Zone	First Saturday in September to second Saturday in December	Last Saturday in October to last Saturday in November and first Saturday in January to last day of February

BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS IN LABRADOR

Limits	Ducks (other than mergansers, Harlequin Ducks**, eiders, and scoters)	Mergansers, scoters, and eiders	Geese	Snipe
Daily bags	6	6(a)	5	10
Possession	12	12(b)	10	20

- (a) After the first Monday in February not more than three may be eiders.
 (b) After the first Monday in February not more than six may be eiders.

** Harlequin Ducks are also known locally as Lords and Ladies, White-eyed Divers, or Squeakers.



OPEN SEASONS IN NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR (Murres/Turrs)

Area	Murres
Zone No. 1	September 1 to December 16
Zone No. 2	October 7 to January 21
Zone No. 3	November 24 to March 10
Zone No. 4	November 2 to January 10 February 2 to March 10

BAG AND POSSESSION LIMITS IN NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR (Murres/Turrs)

Limits	Murres
Daily Bags	20
Possession	40