



GAINES & ASSOCIATES

“GAINES REPORT”

CALIFORNIA FISH & GAME COMMISSION

APPROVES

2025/2026 WATERFOWL HUNTING REGULATIONS

APRIL 16, 2025

I am pleased to let you know that, at today's meeting, the California Fish and Game Commission adopted the 2025/2026 waterfowl regulations for California.

Below is a breakdown of the approved 2025/2026 waterfowl seasons and bag limits for all five California hunting zones:

Duck Bag Limit

- 7-duck daily bag limit, including up to:
 - 7 Mallards (2 hens)
 - **3 Pintail**
 - 2 Canvasback
 - 2 Redheads
 - 2 Scaup

Duck Seasons

- *Northeastern Zone Season:*
 - *Regular Season: October 4 – January 14*
 - *Scaup: October 4 – November 30
and December 18 – January 14*
- *Balance of the State/Southern San Joaquin Valley/Southern California Zones:*
 - *Regular Season: October 18 – January 28 (103 days)*
 - *Scaup: November 4 – January 28*
- *Colorado River Zone:*
 - *Regular Season: October 23 – January 31*
 - *Scaup: November 7 – January 31
(CA Must Match AZ Regulations)*

Goose Seasons & Bag Limits

- *Northeastern Zone Goose Seasons:*
 - *Regular Season:*
 - *Canada Geese: October 4 – January 11*
 - *White Geese and Whitefront Geese: October 4 – November 30 and January 2 – January 14*
 - *Late Season: White Geese & Whitefronts: February 5 – March 10*
- *Northeastern Zone Goose Bag Limits:*
 - *30 Birds Total/Day:*
 - *20 White Geese*
 - *10 Dark Geese*
 - *No More Than 2 Large Canada Geese*
- *Balance of the State Zone Goose Seasons:*
 - *Early Canada Goose Season: September 27 – September 29*
 - *Regular Season: October 18 – January 25 (100 days)*
 - *Late Season: Canada Geese February 14 – 15*
White Geese & Whitefronts: February 14 – 18
- *Balance of the State Zone Goose Bag Limits:*
 - *30 Birds Total/Day:*
 - *20 White Geese*
 - *10 Dark Geese*
- *Southern San Joaquin and Southern California Zone Goose Season:*
 - *Regular Season: October 18 – January 28 (103 days)*
- *Southern San Joaquin and Southern California Zone Goose Bag Limits:*
 - *30 Birds Total/Day:*
 - *20 White Geese*
 - *10 Dark Geese (Southern San Joaquin Zone)*
 - *3 Dark Geese (Southern California Zone)*
- *Colorado River Zone Goose Season:*
 - *Regular Season: October 23 – January 31*
(CA Must Match AZ Regulations)
- *Colorado River Zone Goose Bag Limits:*
 - *25 Birds Total/Day:*
 - *Up to 20 White Geese*
 - *5 Dark Geese**(CA Must Match AZ Regulations)*
- *Black Brant*
 - *Northern Zone: November 29 – December 14 (16 days)*
 - *Balance of the State Zone: November 30 – December 15 (16 days)*
- *Black Brant Bag Limits*
 - *2 Birds/Day*

Special Management Areas

- *North Coast*
 - *Regular Season: October 4 – December 20*
 - *Late Season: February 12 – March 10*
- *Klamath Basin*
 - *White Geese & Whitefronts: October 4 – January 16*
 - *Canada Geese: October 4 – January 11*
- *Sacramento Valley*
 - *Regular Season: October 18 – December 21*
- *Imperial County*
 - *Regular Season: November 1 – January 28*
 - *Late Season: January 31 – February 6 and February 12 – February 20*

Youth Hunt Weekend

- *Northeastern Zone: September 20 and 21*
- *Other Zones: February 7 and 8*

Veterans and Active Military Personnel (VAMP) Hunt Weekend

- *Northeastern Zone: January 17 and 18*
- *All Other Zones: January 31 – February 1*

Falconry-Only

- *Northeastern Zone: None*
- *Balance of State Zone, Southern San Joaquin Valley Zone, and Southern California Zone: None*
- *Colorado River Zone: February 1 – February 4*

Questions? Contact us at info@gainesandassociates.net