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Advisory Announcement

For Immediate Release: August 17, 2021

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2021 Waterfowl Season Opens Sept. 1

(JUNEAU) – The 2021 waterfowl season in Game Management Units 1-4, opens on Wednesday, Sept. 1 and runs through Thursday, Dec. 16.

These dates follow the alternating annual schedule which went into effect in 2019. In odd years, like this year, the season start date is Sept. 1. In even years, the start date is Sept. 16. Season duration is always 107 days, the maximum allowed by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. This alternating schedule is an attempt by the Alaska Board of Game to accommodate hunter preferences throughout the region in relation to waterfowl migration patterns.

Most waterfowl are migratory, moving southward as the seasons change from fall to winter. In odd years, hunters in northern Southeast Alaska have more opportunity to harvest certain species, while in even years southern Southeast will have opportunities they didn't have the year prior.

"Green-winged teal and sandhill cranes, for example, are species that typically migrate through in early September," Roy Churchwell, Area Wildlife Biologist with ADF&G, said. "It's a compromise; next year hunters will have better late season opportunities for sea ducks and late migrating mallards."

Hunters preparing to hunt the Mendenhall Wetlands State Game Refuge in Juneau need to remember that the first two days of the season are reserved for youth hunters aged 10-17 only.

For additional details on hunting regulations call your local ADF&G office. More information, including the full 2021-2022 Migratory Game Bird Hunting Regulations (PDF) booklet can also be found online at <http://hunt.alaska.gov>.

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