



DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

For Release January 30, 1987

Megan Durham (202) 343-5634

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE PROPOSES NONTOXIC SHOT REQUIREMENTS FOR 1987-88

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has proposed regulations that establish nontoxic shot zones for the 1987-88 waterfowl hunting season.

The proposed regulations implement the Interior Department's decision to phase in nontoxic shot requirements for waterfowl hunting throughout the United States by 1991. This decision, announced last June by William Horn, Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, established a schedule for implementing nontoxic shot requirements according to the size of the waterfowl harvest in any given county as follows:

Number of Waterfowl Harvested Per Square Mile	Year Nontoxic Shot Required
20 or more	1987-88
15 or more	1988-89
10 or more	1989-90
5 or more	1990-91
Fewer than 5	1991-92

As outlined in the phase-in schedule, the proposed regulations for 1987-88 require nontoxic shot for waterfowl and coot hunting in counties where there is a harvest of 20 or more waterfowl per square mile, as well as continued use of nontoxic shot wherever it was required during the 1986-87 waterfowl hunting season.

(over)

Under this proposal, muzzleloaders will, for the first time, be required to use nontoxic shot for waterfowl hunting in nontoxic shot zones. The proposal also requires the use of nontoxic shot for some migratory birds that are not waterfowl or coots if they are allowed to be hunted along with waterfowl or coots. For example, in the Pacific Flyway, there are some nontoxic shot zones where it is currently legal to take common moorhens with lead shot although they may be taken in an aggregate bag limit with coots, for which nontoxic shot is required. The Fish and Wildlife Service is proposing that, if nontoxic shot is required for taking one or more species in an aggregate bag limit, it must also be used for taking all other species in the same aggregate bag.

The proposal was published in the January 15 Federal Register. Public comments are invited for 30 days and should be addressed to the Director, (FWS/MBMO), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, Room 536 Matomic Building, Washington, DC 20240.