

Meeting Date: August 20, 2020

Agenda Item No. 5

Agenda Item: Swan Tag Sales update

Bureau Chief Approval: **TB**

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Background:

The Commission set the 2020-2021 migratory game bird seasons at their April 16 conference call meeting. The 2020-2021 seasons included Idaho's first hunting season for swans. The swan season runs October 19 – December 1, 2020 only in Benewah, Bonner, Boundary and Kootenai counties in the Panhandle Region. The Commission established a limit of 50 tags to be issued first-come, first-served.

Swan tags went on sale Saturday, August 1, at 10:00 AM MDT at license vendors, online, and by telephone. All 50 tags were sold within 2 minutes of going on sale and all were issued to Idaho residents. Twenty-two (22) tags were issued at vendor locations and 28 were issued online. Tags were purchased by 25 residents of the Panhandle Region, 5 residents of the Clearwater Region, 11 residents of the Southwest Region, 3 from the Southeast Region, and 6 from the Upper Snake Region.

A swan hunter orientation course is available on the Department's website at <https://idfg.idaho.gov/hunt/swan/course> .

All hunters who harvest a swan must present the swan carcass to a conservation officer, regional office, or check station within 3 days of the date of kill for measurement and identification of species.

Statutory Authority and/or Policy Issues:

Idaho Code 36-104(2) grants authority to the Commission to determine when an open season may be declared for the taking of wildlife. IDAPA 13.01.09.301 establishes rules regarding the take of migratory game birds, including requirements for tagging and mandatory check for harvested swans.

Idaho's migratory game bird seasons are set within a framework established by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service after meeting with all state fish and wildlife management agencies.

Public Involvement Process:

Public input on swan seasons was solicited during rulemaking and during the annual migratory bird season-setting process.

The 2020-2021 Migratory Game Bird season proposals were available for public comment on the Department's website from March 23 – April 3.

Justification:

This agenda item is presented for commission information.

Staff Recommendation:

N/A. This agenda item is presented for commission information.