

# MEMORANDUM



**To:** Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commissioners

**From:** Diane Eggeman, Director, Division of Hunting and Game Management

**Date:** November 18, 2015

**Subject:** Consent Agenda: Hunting Regulations for Ducks, Geese and Coots

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**Purpose:**

Staff is proposing adoption of a final rule that would modify Rule 68A-13.003, F.A.C. to allow for a bag limit of two canvasbacks during the regular waterfowl hunting season.

**Summary:**

At the September Commission meeting, the Commission approved a draft rule that would increase the bag limit of canvasbacks from one to two, pending final Federal authorization. The final federal frameworks for the 2015-16 late-season migratory bird hunting regulations (regular waterfowl and coot season and limited Canada goose season) in support of this change were published on September 25, 2015 in Federal Register Vol. 80, No. 186. The change was enacted by Executive Order Number EO 15-21 to accommodate the increase in the bag limit for the opening of the regular waterfowl season on November 21, 2015.

Hunting regulations for canvasbacks are based on a prescriptive plan as outlined in the Canvasback Harvest Management Strategy. Bag limits are determined annually based on the breeding population of the next year as estimated from the current year breeding population, habitat condition of the Canadian ponds, and the predicted harvest of the current hunting season. A one bird daily bag is prescribed if the predicted breeding population falls between 500,000 and 725,000. A two bird daily bag is prescribed when the estimate exceeds 725,000. The estimated breeding population in 2016 is 727,000.

**Staff Recommendation:**

Adopt the proposed final rule that establishes a bag limit of two for canvasbacks.

**Staff Contact and/or Presenter:**

Jamie Feddersen, Waterfowl and Small Game Management Program Coordinator, Division of Hunting and Game Management