

**Background Report  
Draft Rule 68A-13.004  
Consent Agenda Item (4) A  
May 2, 2012**

**DRAFT RULE**

**RULE NO.:** 68A-13.004     **RULE TITLE:** Open Season for Taking and Bag Limits for Non-Migratory Game and Issuance of Antlerless Deer Permits.

**PURPOSE AND EFFECT:** The purpose of the proposed rule amendment is to change the opening of gray squirrel season from the second Saturday in November to the second Saturday in October and specify the closing as the first Sunday in March. The effect of the proposed rule amendment will be to increase the gray squirrel season by up to 35 days depending on the calendar year, and enable the agency to better manage fish and wildlife resources.

**SUMMARY:** The proposed rule amendment would allow the open season for the taking of gray squirrels to begin 28 or 35 days earlier depending on calendar year and maintain a comparable ending date.

**THE FULL TEXT OF THE PROPOSED RULE IS AS FOLLOWS:**

**68A-13.004 Open Season for Taking and Bag Limits for Non-Migratory Game and Issuance of Antlerless Deer Permits.**

The open season and bag limits for non-migratory game shall be as follows unless otherwise amended by the Commission, provided that regulations for hunting on wildlife management areas shall be as established by specific rule.

(1) No change

(2) Open seasons:

(a) – (d) No change

(e) Gray squirrel: Opening the second Saturday of October ~~November~~ and closing the first Sunday in March. ~~113 days thereafter~~. Opening October 1 and closing March 31 for falconry.

No open season on fox squirrels.

(f) – (h) No change

(3) No change

**PROPOSED EFFECTIVE DATE: AS SOON AS POSSIBLE FOLLOWING COMMISSION ACTION**