

Administrative Procedures – Final Proposed Rule Filing

Instructions:

In accordance with Title 3 Chapter 25 of the Vermont Statutes Annotated and the “Rule on Rulemaking” adopted by the Office of the Secretary of State, this filing will be considered complete upon filing and acceptance of these forms with the Office of the Secretary of State, and the Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules.

All forms requiring a signature shall be original signatures of the appropriate adopting authority or authorized person, and all filings are to be submitted at the Office of the Secretary of State, no later than 3:30 pm on the last scheduled day of the work week.

The data provided in text areas of these forms will be used to generate a notice of rulemaking in the portal of “Proposed Rule Postings” online, and the newspapers of record if the rule is marked for publication. Publication of notices will be charged back to the promulgating agency.

PLEASE REMOVE ANY COVERSHEET OR FORM NOT REQUIRED WITH THE CURRENT FILING BEFORE DELIVERY!

Certification Statement: As the adopting Authority of this rule (see 3 V.S.A. § 801 (b) (11) for a definition), I approve the contents of this filing entitled:

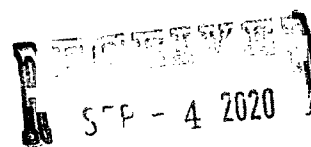
Title 10 V.S.A. § App. § 22 Turkey Seasons Rule

_____/s/ Louis Porter_____, on 9/4/20

Printed Name and Title:

Louis Porter, Commissioner Department of Fish and Wildlife
Secretary, Vermont Fish and Wildlife Board

RECEIVED BY: _____



BY: _____

- Coversheet
- Adopting Page
- Economic Impact Analysis
- Environmental Impact Analysis
- Strategy for Maximizing Public Input
- Scientific Information Statement (if applicable)
- Incorporated by Reference Statement (if applicable)
- Clean text of the rule (Amended text without annotation)
- Annotated text (Clearly marking changes from previous rule)
- ICAR Minutes
- Copy of Comments
- Responsiveness Summary

1. TITLE OF RULE FILING:

Title 10 V.S.A. § App. § 22 Turkey Seasons Rule

2. PROPOSED NUMBER ASSIGNED BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE

20P-018

3. ADOPTING AGENCY:

Vermont Fish and Wildlife Board

4. PRIMARY CONTACT PERSON:

(A PERSON WHO IS ABLE TO ANSWER QUESTIONS ABOUT THE CONTENT OF THE RULE).

Name: Catherine Gjessing

Agency: Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife

Mailing Address: 1 National Life Drive, Dewey 1,
Montpelier, VT 05620

Telephone: 802 595 - 3331 Fax: 802 828 - 1250

E-Mail: catherine.gjessing@vermont.gov

Web URL *(WHERE THE RULE WILL BE POSTED)*:

<https://vtfishandwildlife.com/about-us/fish-and-wildlife-board/board-rules>

5. SECONDARY CONTACT PERSON:

(A SPECIFIC PERSON FROM WHOM COPIES OF FILINGS MAY BE REQUESTED OR WHO MAY ANSWER QUESTIONS ABOUT FORMS SUBMITTED FOR FILING IF DIFFERENT FROM THE PRIMARY CONTACT PERSON).

Name: Mark Scott

Agency: Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife

Mailing Address: 1 National Life Drive, Dewey 1,
Montpelier, VT 05620

Telephone: 802 777 - 4217 Fax: 802 828 - 1250

E-Mail: mark.scott@vermont.gov

6. RECORDS EXEMPTION INCLUDED WITHIN RULE:

(DOES THE RULE CONTAIN ANY PROVISION DESIGNATING INFORMATION AS CONFIDENTIAL; LIMITING ITS PUBLIC RELEASE; OR OTHERWISE EXEMPTING IT FROM INSPECTION AND COPYING?) No

IF YES, CITE THE STATUTORY AUTHORITY FOR THE EXEMPTION:

PLEASE SUMMARIZE THE REASON FOR THE EXEMPTION:

7. LEGAL AUTHORITY / ENABLING LEGISLATION:

(THE SPECIFIC STATUTORY OR LEGAL CITATION FROM SESSION LAW INDICATING WHO THE ADOPTING ENTITY IS AND THUS WHO THE SIGNATORY SHOULD BE. THIS SHOULD BE A SPECIFIC CITATION NOT A CHAPTER CITATION).

10 V.S.A. §4082(a), 10 V.S.A. §4084

8. EXPLANATION OF HOW THE RULE IS WITHIN THE AUTHORITY OF THE AGENCY:

10 V.S.A. §4082(a) states that the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Board is authorized to adopt rules "for the regulation of fish and wild game and the taking thereof" and that the rules "shall be designed to maintain the best health, population, and utilization levels of the regulated species . . . In addition, under 10 V.S.A. §4084, the Board has broad authority to establish: seasons; possession limits; territorial limits; the manner and means of taking any species; reporting and tagging of game; and restrictions on taking based upon sex, maturity, or other physical characteristics of a species.

9. THE FILING HAS NOT CHANGED SINCE THE FILING OF THE PROPOSED RULE.

10. THE AGENCY HAS NOT INCLUDED WITH THIS FILING A LETTER EXPLAINING IN DETAIL WHAT CHANGES WERE MADE, CITING CHAPTER AND SECTION WHERE APPLICABLE.

11. SUBSTANTIAL ARGUMENTS AND CONSIDERATIONS WERE NOT RAISED FOR OR AGAINST THE ORIGINAL PROPOSAL.

12. THE AGENCY HAS INCLUDED COPIES OF ALL WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS AND SYNOPSES OF ORAL COMMENTS RECEIVED.

13. THE AGENCY HAS INCLUDED A LETTER EXPLAINING IN DETAIL THE REASONS FOR THE AGENCY'S DECISION TO REJECT OR ADOPT THEM.

14. CONCISE SUMMARY (**150 WORDS OR LESS**):

The rule deletes a couple of unnecessary definitions, defines youth and novice hunters, establishes a novice turkey hunting weekend at the same time as the youth turkey hunting weekend, sets forth the requirements related to hunting licenses and the attendance of an unarmed adult hunter for youth and novice hunters, and amends shot size to allow smaller shot. Novice hunters

Final Proposed Coversheet

are defined as new hunters who have received their first hunting license in the previous twelve months.

15. EXPLANATION OF WHY THE RULE IS NECESSARY:

The rule is necessary to increase access to hunting opportunities, to help better manage the State's turkey population, to provide for consistent regulations among the big game species, and to allow the use of shot consistent with shot improvements and effectiveness. The novice turkey hunting weekend is consistent with the recent novice deer hunting weekend created by board rule for deer hunting. This increase in hunting opportunity will have no impact on turkey populations in Vermont.

16. EXPLANATION OF HOW THE RULE IS NOT ARBITRARY:

The rule is clearly within Board authority, increases hunter opportunity, and does not in any way undermine the health and abundance of turkey in Vermont.

17. LIST OF PEOPLE, ENTERPRISES AND GOVERNMENT ENTITIES AFFECTED BY THIS RULE:

Hunters and their families, Department staff including wardens; businesses that sell hunting equipment, food, gas and lodging; landowners, foresters, farmers and other members of the public.

18. BRIEF SUMMARY OF ECONOMIC IMPACT (150 WORDS OR LESS):

The proposed rule will create more opportunity for turkey hunting by offering a novice turkey hunting weekend to new hunters, and allowing smaller shot sizes to be used for turkey hunting. A novice turkey hunting season will potentially result in more new hunters, who would purchase future hunting licenses and hunting equipment. We estimate that there may be approximately 200 new resident licenses sold for a total of \$28.00 for the base license and \$23.00 for the turkey tag; and 20 nonresident licenses at \$102.00 for the base license and \$38.00 for the turkey tag. This is a total of \$10,200 and \$2,800 for license fees respectively.

19. A HEARING WAS HELD.

20. HEARING INFORMATION

Final Proposed Coversheet

(THE FIRST HEARING SHALL BE NO SOONER THAN 30 DAYS FOLLOWING THE POSTING OF NOTICES ONLINE).

IF THIS FORM IS INSUFFICIENT TO LIST THE INFORMATION FOR EACH HEARING PLEASE ATTACH A SEPARATE SHEET TO COMPLETE THE HEARING INFORMATION.

Date: 8/24/2020

Time: 06:30 PM

Street Address: Meeting ID: 862 2360 4609

Meeting Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86223604609>

Dial in Phone Number: 929-436-2866

Zip Code:

Date: 8/25/2020

Time: 06:30 PM

Street Address: Meeting ID: 879 2805 7824

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87928057824>

Dial in Phone Number: 929-436-2866

Zip Code:

Date:

Time: AM

Street Address:

Zip Code:

Date:

Time: AM

Street Address:

Zip Code:

21. DEADLINE FOR COMMENT (NO EARLIER THAN 7 DAYS FOLLOWING LAST HEARING):

9/2/2020

KEYWORDS (PLEASE PROVIDE AT LEAST 3 KEYWORDS OR PHRASES TO AID IN THE SEARCHABILITY OF THE RULE NOTICE ONLINE).

Novice

Youth

Turkey

Shot

Hunting

Fish & Wildlife Department
1 National Life Drive, Dewey Building
Montpelier, VT 05620-3208
www.VTFishandWildlife.com

[phone] 802-828-1454
[fax] 802-828-1250
[tdd] 802-828-3345

Agency Of Natural Resources

September 4, 2020

Charlene Dindo, Committee Assistant
Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules
Vermont State House
115 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05633-5301

Re: Turkey Seasons Rule, 20P018

Dear Ms.Dindo:

Enclosed for filing please find the Fish and Wildlife Board Final Proposed Rule filing, entitled 10 V.S.A. Appendix § 22, Turkey Seasons Rule.

The proposed amended rule deletes a couple of unnecessary definitions, defines youth and novice hunters, establishes a novice turkey hunting weekend at the same time as the youth turkey hunting weekend, sets forth the requirements related to hunting licenses and the attendance of an unarmed adult hunter for youth and novice hunters, and amends shot size to allow smaller shot. Novice hunters are defined as new hunters who have received their first hunting license within the previous twelve months.

There were very few comments relating to the Turkey rule and no changes were made as a result of the public hearings and comments. Attached are the comments.

Thank you for your assistance and do not hesitate to contact me at 802-595-3331 or catherine.gjessing@vermont.gov with any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

/s/ Catherine J. Gjessing

Catherine Gjessing
General Counsel

Cc: Louis Porter, Commissioner, Department of Fish and Wildlife

Administrative Procedures – Adopting Page

Instructions:

This form must accompany each filing made during the rulemaking process:

Note: To satisfy the requirement for an annotated text, an agency must submit the entire rule in annotated form with proposed and final proposed filings. Filing an annotated paragraph or page of a larger rule is not sufficient. Annotation must clearly show the changes to the rule.

When possible, the agency shall file the annotated text, using the appropriate page or pages from the Code of Vermont Rules as a basis for the annotated version. New rules need not be accompanied by an annotated text.

1. TITLE OF RULE FILING:

Title 10 V.S.A. § App. § 22 Turkey Seasons Rule

2. ADOPTING AGENCY:

Vermont Fish and Wildlife Board

3. TYPE OF FILING (*PLEASE CHOOSE THE TYPE OF FILING FROM THE DROPDOWN MENU BASED ON THE DEFINITIONS PROVIDED BELOW*):

- **AMENDMENT** - Any change to an already existing rule, even if it is a complete rewrite of the rule, it is considered an amendment as long as the rule is replaced with other text.
- **NEW RULE** - A rule that did not previously exist even under a different name.
- **REPEAL** - The removal of a rule in its entirety, without replacing it with other text.

This filing is **AN AMENDMENT OF AN EXISTING RULE** .

4. LAST ADOPTED (*PLEASE PROVIDE THE SOS LOG#, TITLE AND EFFECTIVE DATE OF THE LAST ADOPTION FOR THE EXISTING RULE*):

19P031, Title 10 V.S.A. § App. § 22 Turkey Seasons Rule, effective: January 1, 2020

INTERAGENCY COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATIVE RULES (ICAR) MINUTES

Meeting Date/Location: July 13, 2020, Microsoft Teams Meeting

Members Present: Chair Brad Ferland, Ashley Berliner, Diane Bothfeld, Jennifer Mojo, Matt Langham, Steve Knudson and Clare O'Shaughnessy

Members Absent: Dirk Anderson and John Kessler

Minutes By: Melissa Mazza-Paquette

- 2:00 p.m. meeting called to order, welcome and introductions.
- Review and approval of minutes from the June 8, 2020 meeting.
- No additions/deletions to agenda. Agenda approved as drafted.
- Note: The following Emergency Rules were supported by Chair Ferland:
 - 'Emergency Rule on Hearing Procedures' by the Department of Taxes on 6/19/20.
 - 'Emergency Administrative Rules for Remote Hearings' by the Secretary of State's Office; Office of Professional Regulation on 6/23/20.
- No public comments made.
- Presentation of Proposed Rules on pages 2-3 to follow.
 1. Title 10 V.S.A. § App. § 22 Turkey Seasons Rule, Vermont Fish and Wildlife Board, page 2
 2. Title 10 V.S.A. § App. § 2 Report, big game, Vermont Fish and Wildlife Board, page 3
- Next scheduled meeting is August 10, 2020 at 2:00 p.m.
- 2:45 p.m. meeting adjourned.

**Proposed Rule: Title 10 V.S.A. § App. § 22 Turkey Seasons Rule, Vermont Fish and Wildlife Board
Presented by Catherine Gjessing, Mark Scott and Will Duane**

Motion made to accept the rule by Diane Bothfeld, seconded by Steve Knudson, and passed unanimously except for Jennifer Mojo who abstained, with the following recommendations:

1. Define 'novice hunter' as it relates to this proposed rule.
2. Mention that you are trying to increase hunting opportunities based upon science as the turkey population is very healthy, and any increase in hunting will not have a negative impact on the population, if appropriate.
3. Proposed Rule Coversheet, page 4, #14-15: Complete.
4. Proposed Rule Coversheet, pages 4-5, #16: Add 'hunting'.
5. Economic Impact Statement: If possible, assign a dollar value in broad terms, such as listing the amounts of a hunting license and turkey tag multiplied by the number of new hunters. Add recruitment costs if known.
6. Public Input, page 1, #3: Update with ICAR input.
7. Annotated text, page 1, #1.3: Clarify the statutory language/punctuation.

Administrative Procedures – Economic Impact Analysis

Instructions:

In completing the economic impact analysis, an agency analyzes and evaluates the anticipated costs and benefits to be expected from adoption of the rule; estimates the costs and benefits for each category of people enterprises and government entities affected by the rule; compares alternatives to adopting the rule; and explains their analysis concluding that rulemaking is the most appropriate method of achieving the regulatory purpose.

Rules affecting or regulating schools or school districts must include cost implications to local school districts and taxpayers in the impact statement, a clear statement of associated costs, and consideration of alternatives to the rule to reduce or ameliorate costs to local school districts while still achieving the objectives of the rule (see 3 V.S.A. § 832b for details).

Rules affecting small businesses (excluding impacts incidental to the purchase and payment of goods and services by the State or an agency thereof), must include ways that a business can reduce the cost or burden of compliance or an explanation of why the agency determines that such evaluation isn't appropriate, and an evaluation of creative, innovative or flexible methods of compliance that would not significantly impair the effectiveness of the rule or increase the risk to the health, safety, or welfare of the public or those affected by the rule.

1. TITLE OF RULE FILING:

Title 10 V.S.A. § App. § 22 Turkey Seasons Rule

2. ADOPTING AGENCY:

Vermont Fish and Wildlife Board

3. CATEGORY OF AFFECTED PARTIES:

LIST CATEGORIES OF PEOPLE, ENTERPRISES, AND GOVERNMENTAL ENTITIES POTENTIALLY AFFECTED BY THE ADOPTION OF THIS RULE AND THE ESTIMATED COSTS AND BENEFITS ANTICIPATED:

Hunters and their families, Department staff including wardens; businesses that sell hunting equipment, food, gas and lodging; landowners, foresters, farmers and other members of the public.

4. IMPACT ON SCHOOLS:

Economic Impact Analysis

INDICATE ANY IMPACT THAT THE RULE WILL HAVE ON PUBLIC EDUCATION, PUBLIC SCHOOLS, LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS AND/OR TAXPAYERS CLEARLY STATING ANY ASSOCIATED COSTS:

None

5. **ALTERNATIVES:** *CONSIDERATION OF ALTERNATIVES TO THE RULE TO REDUCE OR AMELIORATE COSTS TO LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS WHILE STILL ACHIEVING THE OBJECTIVE OF THE RULE.*

Because there is no impact on local school districts, there are no alternatives that will reduce such impacts.

6. **IMPACT ON SMALL BUSINESSES:**

INDICATE ANY IMPACT THAT THE RULE WILL HAVE ON SMALL BUSINESSES (EXCLUDING IMPACTS INCIDENTAL TO THE PURCHASE AND PAYMENT OF GOODS AND SERVICES BY THE STATE OR AN AGENCY THEREOF):

There may be a slight increase in shot purchases as all turkey hunters will have more choices regarding shot size. In addition, the novice turkey hunting season may result in a slight increase in new hunters and turkey hunting, which could lead to new, future license sales or hunting equipment purchases.

7. **SMALL BUSINESS COMPLIANCE:** *EXPLAIN WAYS A BUSINESS CAN REDUCE THE COST/BURDEN OF COMPLIANCE OR AN EXPLANATION OF WHY THE AGENCY DETERMINES THAT SUCH EVALUATION ISN'T APPROPRIATE.*

The rule loosens restrictions regarding the use of shot for turkey hunting; and creates a novice hunting weekend for new hunters. The rule does not impose requirements on small businesses and as such, there are no anticipated burdens or costs to small businesses to comply with the proposed rule change.

8. **COMPARISON:**

COMPARE THE IMPACT OF THE RULE WITH THE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF OTHER ALTERNATIVES TO THE RULE, INCLUDING NO RULE ON THE SUBJECT OR A RULE HAVING SEPARATE REQUIREMENTS FOR SMALL BUSINESS:

The slight increase in shot purchases and turkey hunters associated with the novice week-end, may result in a slight increase in purchases such as; ammunition, and incidental purchases associated with traveling to hunt including the purchase of fuel for vehicles, beverages, and snacks.

9. **SUFFICIENCY:** *EXPLAIN THE SUFFICIENCY OF THIS ECONOMIC IMPACT ANALYSIS.*
The economic benefits, if any, will be positive and as such, this analysis is sufficient.

Administrative Procedures – Environmental Impact Analysis

Instructions:

In completing the environmental impact analysis, an agency analyzes and evaluates the anticipated environmental impacts (positive or negative) to be expected from adoption of the rule; compares alternatives to adopting the rule; explains the sufficiency of the environmental impact analysis.

Examples of Environmental Impacts include but are not limited to:

- Impacts on the emission of greenhouse gases
- Impacts on the discharge of pollutants to water
- Impacts on the arability of land
- Impacts on the climate
- Impacts on the flow of water
- Impacts on recreation
- Or other environmental impacts

1. TITLE OF RULE FILING:

Title 10 V.S.A. § App. § 22 Turkey Seasons Rule

2. ADOPTING AGENCY:

Vermont Fish and Wildlife Board

3. GREENHOUSE GAS: *EXPLAIN HOW THE RULE IMPACTS THE EMISSION OF GREENHOUSE GASES (E.G. TRANSPORTATION OF PEOPLE OR GOODS; BUILDING INFRASTRUCTURE; LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT, WASTE GENERATION, ETC.):*

May result in a slight increase in turkey hunting during the novice weekend; and the attendant travel may increase greenhouse gases.

4. WATER: *EXPLAIN HOW THE RULE IMPACTS WATER (E.G. DISCHARGE / ELIMINATION OF POLLUTION INTO VERMONT WATERS, THE FLOW OF WATER IN THE STATE, WATER QUALITY ETC.):*

None

5. LAND: *EXPLAIN HOW THE RULE IMPACTS LAND (E.G. IMPACTS ON FORESTRY, AGRICULTURE ETC.):*

None

6. RECREATION: *EXPLAIN HOW THE RULE IMPACT RECREATION IN THE STATE:*

There will be a slight increase in recreational hunting opportunities during turkey hunting seasons.

Environmental Impact Analysis

7. CLIMATE: *EXPLAIN HOW THE RULE IMPACTS THE CLIMATE IN THE STATE:*

May result in a slight increase in turkey hunting during the novice turkey hunting weekend; and the attendant travel may increase greenhouse gases.

8. OTHER: *EXPLAIN HOW THE RULE IMPACT OTHER ASPECTS OF VERMONT'S ENVIRONMENT:*

This rule is being offered in conjunction with authority to allow electronic reporting of big game such as turkey. Turkey populations are abundant in Vermont and this rule will not affect population levels. Electronic reporting will significantly reduce the in person reporting and travel currently associated with turkey hunting. Between 2013 and 2019, the number of turkey taken has ranged from 5851 to 7183, and has averaged 6574 birds a year, all of which have been required to report to big game reporting stations in person. This is a significant number of hunters traveling to report and exhibit carcasses in person. This will result in a reduction in travel and greenhouse gases.

9. SUFFICIENCY: *EXPLAIN THE SUFFICIENCY OF THIS ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ANALYSIS.*

Because there are no potential environmental impacts associated with this rule, this analysis is sufficient.

Administrative Procedures – Public Input

Instructions:

In completing the public input statement, an agency describes the strategy prescribed by ICAR to maximize public input, what it did do, or will do to comply with that plan to maximize the involvement of the public in the development of the rule.

This form must accompany each filing made during the rulemaking process:

1. TITLE OF RULE FILING:

Title 10 V.S.A. § App. § 22 Turkey Seasons Rule

2. ADOPTING AGENCY:

Vermont Fish and Wildlife Board

3. PLEASE DESCRIBE THE STRATEGY PRESCRIBED BY ICAR TO MAXIMIZE PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE PROPOSED RULE:

ICAR approved the public input plan proposed by the Department.

4. PLEASE LIST THE STEPS THAT HAVE BEEN OR WILL BE TAKEN TO COMPLY WITH THAT STRATEGY:

The Board and Department discussed this rule at the Board's public meeting on May 20, 2020. The Department, on behalf of the Board, will post the proposed rules on its website, issue media releases and social media communications regarding the rule prior to June 1 and prior to the Board meetings that discuss this proposed rule. In addition, the Board plans to hold two public informational meetings to gather public input on the rule.

5. BEYOND GENERAL ADVERTISEMENTS, PLEASE LIST THE PEOPLE AND ORGANIZATIONS THAT HAVE BEEN OR WILL BE INVOLVED IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE PROPOSED RULE:

Hunters, landowners, hunting equipment and supplies merchants, general store owners, F&W Department personnel, travel and tourism personnel, professional foresters, and hunting clubs.

Proposed Turkey Rule Changes Public Hearing Comments / Questions

August 24th, 2020 Virtual Public Hearing – up to 5 members of the public joined

No Public Comment / Questions

August 25th, 2020 Virtual Public Hearing – up to 7 members of the public joined

Chris Gonyeau – Georgia, VT

Comment: I like the first two regulation changes (shot size / novice turkey hunting weekend) and I love the third regulation change (big game harvest reporting). I like the online reporting option and find it to be an advantage for quicker reporting, especially for the deer season early on when you don't want a deer hanging around too long.

Public Comment Voicemails Related to the Proposed Turkey / Big Game Harvest Reporting Requirement Rule Changes

No voicemails received for the proposed rule changes

Public Comment Emails Related to the Proposed Turkey / Big Game Harvest Reporting Requirement Rule Changes

Dear F&W-

This is Michael Kolsun from Island Pond. I attended last evenings Zoom meeting and wanted to comment on the Turkey shot size regulation changes. Chris Bernier's presentation really did a fine job of the history and current status of Vermont's turkeys.

Those of us who have hunted Turkeys from the very beginning of the season, knew and understood the shot size regulations & restrictions at that time. Ethical hunters always want a quick and effective harvest. Shot size, patterns and self discipline were critical.

Ammunition technology in 2020, compared to the 70's, has made huge advances. We'd never think of using #9 lead shot back in the beginning, but now with TSS shot development, patterns and energy, even out of a .410 shotgun, are equally if not more effective than a 12 gauge. It's not unusual to have over 100 pellets in a three inch circle with a tight turkey choke.

I just wanted to clarify this point to any hunters who are not aware of the new advances in ammunition. As we continue to reach out to adult hunters who didn't grow up in the shooting sports, smaller gauges like a .410, in a semi-auto are now a very effective choice, especially for anyone who is recoil shy.

I want to thank the entire F&W Department staff for your dedication and hard work. A job well done.

Sincerely,

Michael Kolsun

Island Pond, Vermont

With online reporting, Porter said, "you get some data but not as much." Individual hunters might not have a proper scale for weighing an animal carcass or the tools to determine an animal's age.*

So, this is less about managing wildlife with science and more about saving the budget by offering convenient reporting options for hunters.

Ridiculous.

The revenue loss should have been accounted for in the department's budget and new revenue streams should have been created. This is gross mismanagement of our wildlife and of our tax dollars. This department needs a leadership overhaul.

*https://vtdigger.org/2020/08/26/state-looks-for-ways-to-attract-more-hunters-including-novice-weekend/?fbclid=IwAR3uHkbKdQmE_jTgdmu7h8rJ43xj3k6BJawvhcb1PLO4NuCuoY-FheAqoMA

Sincerely,

Jen Kittell

Lamoille County

Dear Big Game Team,

First of all I would like to say that I support the proposed changes to the turkey regulations. I feel that anytime a regulation change is made that would increase hunter participation is a good thing. I am extremely in favor about being able to report a turkey electronically.

I just watched the presentation that was given to the Fish & Wildlife Board in May and was informed that the majority of hunters (53%) who responded to a survey that was sent out were in favor of having the spring turkey hunting hours extended. I do not see anywhere where the Big Game Team is making any recommendations to the board to do so.

I know there were some concerns from the department staff when there was talk about extending the hunting hours for the spring youth turkey weekend. I would like to give you my thoughts on some of those concerns as they would apply to all day hunting during the May turkey season.

The first being "Roost shooting". I know there were concerns that if spring turkey hunting season were to be changed to all day hunting that there may be an issue with hunters shooting turkeys off the roost. What is there now to stop hunters from shooting a turkey off the roost during the current hunting hours? It does happen! I have had two different hunters in the past tell me that was the way they harvested their spring turkey. Although I feel that this is not ethical it is not illegal without a regulation change that would prohibit such conduct.

The second is landowner concern. If I am not mistaken Vermont's spring turkey season is the only game season that is not an all day season. Landowners that open their land to hunting know that hunters could possibly be on their property throughout the day in pursuit of game. I feel that landowners would not have anymore of an issue with spring turkey hunters being on their property throughout the day than they would with fall turkey, deer and small game hunters.

Thirdly, is the disturbance of nesting hens. It has been proven that the longer a hen is on the nest incubating the less likely she is to abandon the nest. If she were to abandon her nest the spring hunting season is set early enough in the year that most likely she will re-nest. Re-nesting occurs every year whether the nest is destroyed by predators or the hens abandons it for some reason or another. Data from other states(see attached) that allow all day hunting have found that approximately 80% of turkeys harvested are done so by noon. That tells me that the majority of hunters would be out of the woods by that time which would result in minimal additional nest disturbance by the small numbers of hunters who would continue to hunt past noon.

I have also heard concerns that there would be interference between hunters actually hunting turkeys and those trying to roost a turkey. I think that if the Vermont's spring turkey hunting hours were to be changed to sunset that most turkey hunters would be out hunting and not trying to roost a turkey.

Extending the spring hunting hours would benefit a large group of hunters to include 1st and 3rd shift workers as well as young hunters who would like to hunt after school. Not all individuals are fortunate enough to have ample vacation time from work where they can afford to take time off during the turkey season which would limit them to being able to only hunt weekends. This would apply to youth who are attending school as well with the current hours in place. A study done in 2002 in the state of Indiana found that a higher proportion of youth license holders actually hunted turkeys during the first spring of all-day hunting season compared to the previous five years of half-day hunting. (See attachment)

If extending the spring turkey hunting hours would be detrimental to the turkey population I would be the first to be against extending the hunting hours. Research has shown that it is not. Research has also shown that the spring harvest during an all-day season only increases 10-15% which is minimal.

I would like to see Chris Bernier reach out to some of the other states (approx. 40) that have all day spring turkey hunting of some length and see if any of the concerns I mentioned or others that the Big Game Team may have are an issue.

In reviewing the 2020-2030 draft of Vermont's Wild Turkey Management Plan it states that it's goal is to maximize ecological and social benefits derived from Vermont's wild turkey population by administering biologically appropriate and sustainable harvest regulations. I hope that the Big Game team along with department staff realizes that there is no negative biological reason for not increasing the spring turkey hunting hours and that there is a social reason in doing so by increasing hunter opportunity. Again I

would like to stress that the majority of hunters that responded to the department's survey are in favor of expanding the spring turkey hunting hours.

Sincerely, Don Isabelle

See attachments below:

An Evaluation of All-day Hunting - Comparisons between Half-day and All-day Spring Turkey Hunting in Indiana (Bucks 2005)

In 2002, all-day spring turkey hunting was implemented in Indiana after 32 years of half-day hunting. Indiana has a statewide, open-permit, spring turkey season with a bag-limit of 1 male or bearded turkey per hunter per season. Prior to permitting all-day spring turkey hunting in Indiana, a moderate amount of controversy existed among various resource users and natural resource managers. Among these concerns were that all-day hunting might lead to an even greater proportion of harvest occurring earlier in the season, and that all-day hunting would result in a greater proportion of adult gobblers being harvested. To evaluate the impacts of all-day spring turkey, a study was conducted (Bucks 2005), the objective of which was to assess whether lengthening of spring shooting hours from half-day (half-hour before sunrise to 12:00 PM) to all-day (half-hour before sunrise to sunset) influenced the distribution of the harvest throughout the season or the age-specific harvest on adult gobblers.

Study results indicated that daily harvest distributions through the 19-day spring seasons did not differ following the extension of shooting hours. The proportion of total harvest that occurred during the third week of the season was slightly less (3%) during years in which all-day hunting was permitted. Results of the study also indicated that the proportion of the harvest taken after 12:00 PM during all-day hunting was approximately 20% (Fig. 3). The primary differences between the half-day and all-day season was that adult gobblers composed slightly greater proportions (~2%) of all-day harvests; however, the author concluded that the differences may have been due to a greater number of adult gobblers being available during the all-day seasons.

as well as unmeasured variables of hunter selectivity. The author stated that the afternoon time periods, especially after 3:00 PM during weekdays, may have attracted hunters that previously could only hunt on weekend mornings (e.g., youth, first and third shift factory workers). In support, results of hunter mail surveys indicated a noticeably higher proportion of youth license holders actually hunted turkeys during the first spring of all-day hunting compared to the previous five years of half-day hunting.

Results of the study indicated that the influence of all-day hunting on the distribution of harvest throughout the season and the age-specific harvest of adult gobblers was minimal. There was no change in the daily distribution of harvest and most birds were still taken during the morning (70% prior to 10:00 AM, 80% by 12:00 PM) (Fig. 3). The slightly greater take of adult gobblers was probably related to higher relative turkey population levels and hunter selectivity rather than shooting hours. The author did caution that differential adult gobbler harvest may increase under more liberal harvest management strategies, and perhaps act synergistically with other factors to increase hunting mortality of adult gobblers; however, the implementation of all-day hunting in Indiana provides additional and new hunting opportunities without noticeable impact on the statewide harvest structure and estimated hunter success.

Distribution of Spring Turkey Harvest by Time of Day in Ohio - 2010

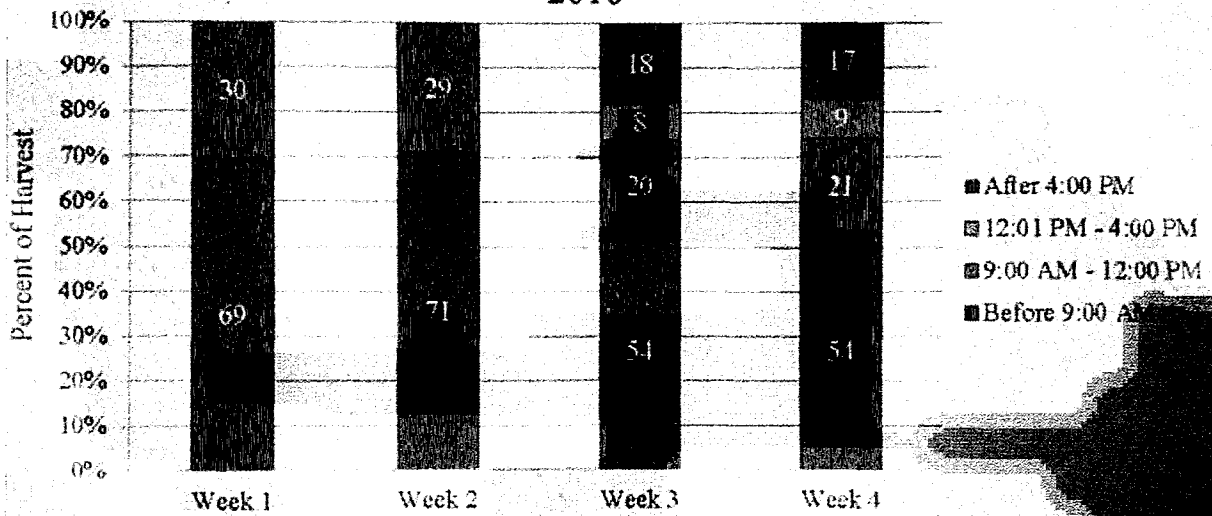
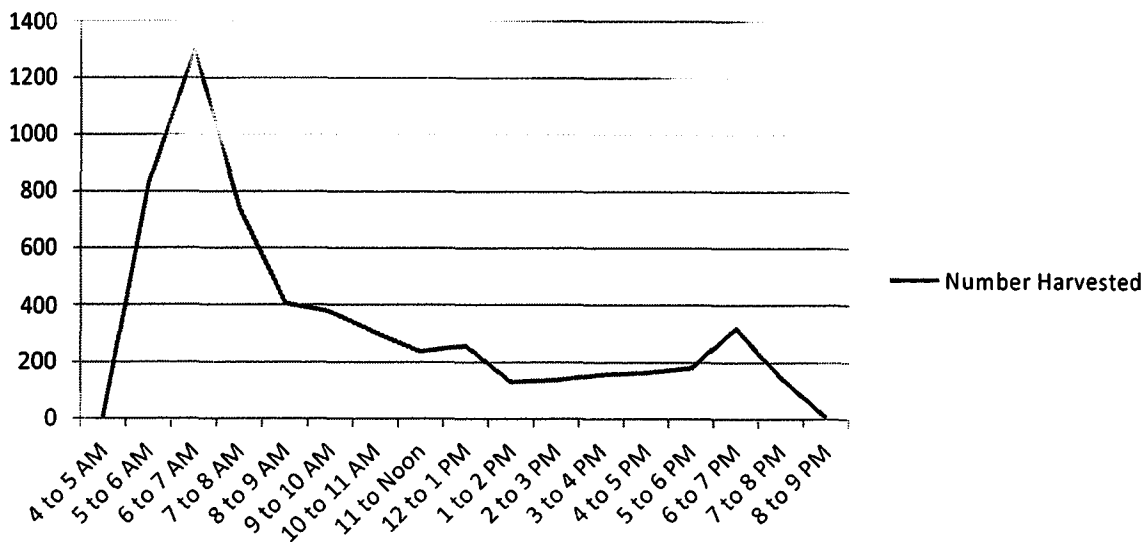
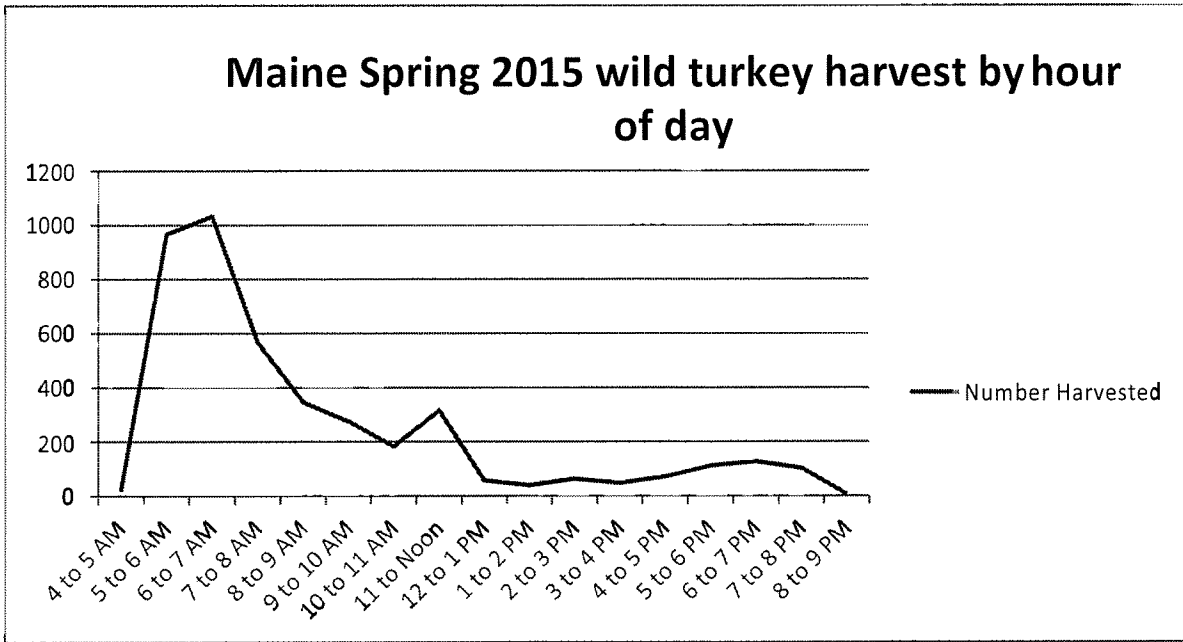


Figure 4. Distribution of spring turkey harvest by time of day in Ohio. During the first weeks of the 2010 spring turkey, hunting was permitted until 12:00 PM. During the last 2 weeks of the season, hunting was permitted until sunset. Ohio Department of Natural Resources – Division of Wildlife.

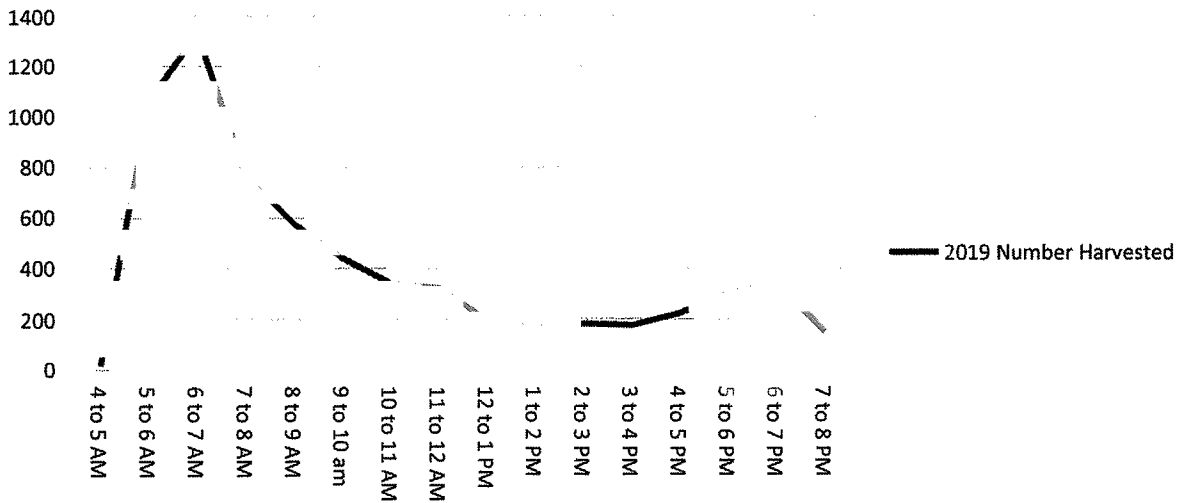
Maine Spring 2014 wild turkey harvest by hour of day



Maine Spring 2015 wild turkey harvest by hour of day



Maine Spring 2019 wild turkey harvest by hour of day



Maine Spring Wild Turkey Harvest from 2007 to 2019

2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
6085	6348	6075	6078	5448	6084	6704	5779	5272	5852	5597	6236	6612

Hi,

Regarding shot size, I strongly believe the minimum shot size requirement should be eliminated. It does not make sense to have this limit with the current popularity of tungsten shot, which is extremely effective at shot sizes smaller than the current limit and is also non-toxic.

Regarding the novice turkey weekend, I am more neutral. Clearly hunter recruitment is important but the turkey season is already a month long and current research has been illuminating the importance of not killing toms too early in the breeding cycle. I'm not sure it makes sense to put additional pressure on the birds a week before the season despite the potential recruitment benefits.

Finally, I strongly believe there should be electronic reporting for deer and turkey. As an archery deer hunter, it is nearly impossible to get a deer killed in the evening to a check station before it closes. If it's a warm night waiting until morning to bring the deer to the check station has the strong potential for meat loss. Additionally, as a student residing in NH, I need to be able to check a deer or turkey in before crossing state lines. However, if I could check a deer in electronically this would not be an issue. This would also help hunters from out of state that want to hunt the evening before driving home without the stress of getting a deer checked in person before leaving the state.

A great example of a state with online reporting that I hunt is Missouri. They have an app that keeps your license and tags. You can notch your tag even if you don't have service and then provide the report on sex, antler circumference, eye to nose length of does, etc. once you have service. This gives Missouri up to the minute harvest information that they display to the public on their website. It would be great if Vermont could have something like this someday. In my opinion, conveniences such as online reporting will help hunter recruitment and hunter retainment more than things like novice weekends (not that those should not be considered either though).

Best,
Andrew Nadler



Forging a wildlife conservation model for the 21st century

September 1, 2020

Commissioner Porter and Fish & Wildlife Department Staff,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on these three proposals:

- 1. Proposed regulation changes to amend the shot size restriction for turkey hunting: VWC agrees with the rationale and supports this change.*
- 2. Proposed regulation changes to create a novice turkey hunting weekend: VWC agrees with the goal of encouraging new hunters and supports this proposal.*
- 3. Proposed regulation changes to allow the Commissioner the authority to allow harvest reporting of deer and turkey electronically, by telephone or any other method and the authority to allow electronic harvest reporting of moose and/or bear in an emergency: While VWC understands and agrees with the use of electronic reporting during the Covid-19 pandemic and are willing to give it the benefit of the doubt with regard to turkeys after listening to Chris Bernier's presentation, we believe it would be a mistake to expand this to deer beyond the pandemic. Additionally, the term "emergencies," regarding allowing electronic reporting to bear and moose, is impossibly vague. Vague regulations invite chaos.*

The Department took quick and commendable action in dealing with the Covid-19 crisis during the spring turkey season and appreciate that a resurgence of the pandemic might require further steps of a similar nature. However, as of now, with appropriate safety measures in place and a low infection rate in the state, many if not most Vermont businesses have reopened. It seems arbitrary to somehow single out the businesses that host check-in stations as unsafe. While having to drive to a reporting station may be an in-the-moment, begrudged chore for those who do not have one nearby, it is hardly what is on one's mind when preparing for a deer hunt or buying a license. Consequently, there is a risk that any positive effect that not having to go to a reporting station after a successful hunt might have on encouraging new hunters or retaining current ones, will be outweighed by the degradation of the data obtained by the FWD with first-hand observation and measurements. For starters, not everyone can age a deer or bear and while it may be easy to weigh a turkey, a bear or big buck is more of a problem. Not everyone has suitable, or suitably accurate scales in the garage.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to weigh in (so to speak) on these issues.

Sincerely, the Board of the Vermont Wildlife Coalition: Rob Mullen, Jane Hoffman, Gerri Huck, David Kelley, Claudia Mucklow, and Leigh Steele

Vermont Wildlife Coalition • PO Box 987, Shelburne VT 05482 •
info@vtwildlifecoalition.org



September 1, 2020

Louis Porter, Commissioner
Vermont Fish and Wildlife
Department 1 National Life
Drive
Davis 2
Montpelier, VT

05620 Dear

Commissioner

Porter,

The Vermont State Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTF-VT) appreciates the work of the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department (VFWD) in managing a robust wild turkey population that provides fantastic hunting opportunities in Vermont. We offer the following comments in response to the Department's proposed regulation changes:

- We support the Department's elimination of the minimum shot size restriction on ammunition used for turkey hunting. Such changes will allow hunters in Vermont to take advantage of new and popular hunting loads that are available in smaller shot sizes but composed of heavier than lead materials, such as TSS #9, among others. In addition, we believe this regulation change will provide increased flexibility to hunters (especially women and youths) interested in hunting turkeys with smaller gauge shotguns, such as 20 ga. and .410, as they will be able to pair them with effective ammunition loads. However, we believe that the Department's maximum allowable shot size should be reduced from #2 to #4. In their final report released in 2005, the NWTF Wild Turkey Hunting Safety Task Force recommended restricting shot size to #4 and smaller, based on historic information from turkey hunting shooting-related incidents. The Task Force felt that such a shot size reduction would lessen the severity of injuries sustained from shooting incidents.
- We support the creation of a novice turkey hunting weekend, timed to coincide with the youth hunting weekend. We agree with the Department that Vermont's abundant turkey population provides a fantastic opportunity to attract new individuals to turkey hunting and we are very pleased to see additional opportunities to recruit and retain adult-onset hunters. In addition, we feel that the establishment of a weekend outside of the regular hunting season will further incentivize experienced hunters to serve as mentors for these novice hunters, knowing that they will not have to carve out limited time during the regular season,

National Wild Turkey Federation

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www.nwtf.org

nor sacrifice their own turkey tag helping a new hunter safely pursue their first bird, as would be required under VT's mentored hunting license

- We support the proposed regulation changes relative to harvest reporting of deer and turkey. Allowing the Commissioner the latitude to authorize additional options for checking big game, including electronic and phone reporting, will have multiple benefits, including providing additional, convenient options for hunters to report their harvest, and giving biologists and wardens access to 'real-time' harvest data.

NWTF-VT greatly values the partnership we have with VFWD in building a bright future for wild turkeys and turkey hunting in Vermont. We recognize and congratulate the Department for all the hard work that went into the recent update of the Big Game Management Plan, which laid the groundwork for many of these much needed regulation changes.

Yours in Conservation,

Morgan Gouveia

Morgan Gouveia
NWTF State Chapter President, Vermont

Hi,

Seeing you asked I thought I'd give you my opinion on a couple things. First I do like the youth turkey weekend. When my son was a youth hunter he was fortunate enough to lay a couple to rest and had a lot of fun hunts which produced a lifetime of memories for us both. Several years later it's still his favorite game to hunt, kudos to the VTFW.

Now the bad news. A few years ago I sat in one of the annual deer hunting meetings and listened to the VTFW tell us how few hunters were fortunate enough to harvest two bucks. With the new rule shooting one buck I strongly feel there will be so many hunters shooting multiple bucks and not tagging them more than ever. You see a nice racked 2 1/2 or older in archery season and can't shoot it because you can't hunt the remaining two deer hunting seasons. That's a real blunder on VTFW in my opinion which doesn't seem like the decision had much thought put into it. Why not consider a second buck with a minimum three or even four points on one side. I feel that would have kept the majority of hunters happy.

In closing, not shooting spike horns was the BEST decision ever. Before that law was put into place that's all I saw was spikes. Since then I have no desire to shoot one and look forward to seeing way more nice basket racked 2 1/2 yr olds and older.

One more thing, 2 1/2 months of deer hunting in this small state is a joke. I realize there is financial ramifications involved but shouldn't be at the cost of the deer herd. We all know how much stress that puts on the herd going into winter so let's be smarter about it.

Sincerely
Troy Hull

Annotated

**TITLE 10 APPENDIX
CHAPTER 1. GAME
Subchapter 1: General Provisions**

§ 22. Turkey Seasons

1.0 Authority

1.1 This rule is adopted pursuant to 10 V.S.A. § 4081(a). In adopting this rule, the Fish and Wildlife Board is following the policy established by the General Assembly that the protection, propagation, control, management, and conservation of fish, wildlife and fur-bearing animals in this State is in the interest of the public welfare and that the safeguarding of this valuable resource for the people of the State requires a constant and continual vigilance.

1.2 In accordance with 10 V.S.A. § 4082, this rule is designed to maintain the best health, population and utilization levels of the turkey flock.

1.3 In accordance with 10 V.S.A. § 4084, this rule establishes daily, season and possession limits for game, territorial limits; ~~to prescribe,~~ and the manner and means of taking; to establish territorial limits for the taking of turkeys; and to establish restrictions on taking based upon sex, maturity or other physical distinction.

2.0 Purpose The purpose of this regulation is to establish seasons for the taking of turkeys, to establish open Wildlife Management Units (WMUs) for the taking of turkeys, to establish methods of taking turkeys and to establish limits on the number of turkeys to be taken.

3.0 Definitions

3.1 "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department.

3.2 "Crossbow" means a device consisting of a bow mounted to a rigid stock for discharging bolts or arrows and having a mechanical means to hold and release the drawn string, which must be fired from the shoulder. A bolt means a short projectile for a crossbow that resembles an arrow and has a head that measures no less than 7/8 inch at its widest point. A crossbow shall have a minimum pull of 125 pounds, a working mechanical safety and a stock no less than 23 inches in length.

~~3.3 "Department" means the Vermont Fish and Wildlife Department.~~

~~3.4~~ "Legal means" means the taking of a turkey by shotgun, crossbow, or archery equipment in conformance with Section 6 of this rule.

3.4 "Novice" means a person who obtained their first hunting license within the past 12 months and is 16 years of age or older.

~~3.6 "Permit" means a document issued by the Department authorizing the taking of a turkey.~~

3.5 "Wildlife Management Unit" (WMU) means one of 21 geographical areas in Vermont for which big game regulations may vary.

3.6 "Youth" means a person who is 15 years of age or younger.

4.0 Spring Season

4.1 Dates: May 1, through May 31, inclusive.

4.2 Shooting hours: One-half hour before sunrise to twelve noon.

4.3 Legal turkey: Only wild turkeys with beard(s).

4.4 Bag Limit: Two bearded wild turkeys per person per season.

4.5 Open WMUs: Open statewide

5.0 Fall Season.

5.1 Dates and Open WMU's.

(a) Bow and Arrow, and crossbow only:

i. Dates: From the 1st Saturday in October to the beginning of the shotgun/bow and arrow/crossbow season.

ii. Open WMUs: Open Statewide

(b) Shotgun/Bow & Arrow/Crossbow Season

i. Dates: Nine consecutive days beginning 21 days prior to the regular deer season, inclusive.

ii. Open WMUs: B, D, G, H, I, J, L, M, O, P, and Q and their respective subunits:.

(c) Shotgun/Bow & Arrow/Crossbow Season

i. Dates: For 16 consecutive days beginning 21 days prior to the regular deer season, inclusive.

ii. Open WMUs: subunits: WMUs F, K, and N and their respective subunits:.

5.2 Shooting hours: One-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset.

5.3 Legal Turkey: Any wild turkey.

5.4 Bag limit: One turkey per person.

6.0 Legal Method of Taking:

6.1 Only a shotgun, crossbow, or bow and arrow may be used.

6.2 Only number 2 or smaller size~~through number 8~~ shot shall be used or possessed.

6.3 An arrowhead must be at least $\frac{7}{8}$ th of an inch in width and have two or more cutting edges.

6.4 Rifles shall not be used or carried by any person while hunting turkeys. A person taking a turkey with a crossbow or bow and arrow may carry a handgun in accordance with 10 V.S.A. § 4252(b), however, that person may not use the handgun to take turkey.

6.5 No person shall use dogs in the spring, nor electronic calling devices, bait, live decoys, or participate in cooperative drives during either season.

6.6 Any person wishing to hunt turkey with a crossbow or bow and arrow must hold proof of having held an archery license or a certificate of satisfactory completion of a bowhunter education course from Vermont or another state or province of Canada which is approved by the Commissioner.

6.7 Unless it is uncocked, a person shall not possess or transport a crossbow in or on a motor vehicle, motorboat, airplane, snowmobile, or other motor-propelled vehicle except as permitted in accordance with 10 V.S.A. § 4705.

7.0 Youth Turkey Hunting Weekend

7.1 Youth turkey hunting weekend shall be the Saturday and Sunday prior to opening day of spring turkey season on May 1. Legal shooting hours shall be one half hour before sunrise until 5 p.m.

7.2 Legal Turkey: Only bearded turkeys may be taken.

7.3 Bag limit: One bearded turkey per youth. A youth may also hunt during the spring season and take two bearded turkeys during that season.

7.4 Season: One half hour before sunrise until 5 p.m. To participate in the youth turkey hunt, a qualified youth must be 15 years of age or younger and have a valid Vermont hunting and turkey license and a youth turkey hunting weekend license.

7.5 The youth must be accompanied by an unarmed adult who holds a valid Vermont hunting license and who is 18 years of age or older. An adult accompanying a youth under this section shall accompany no more than two young people at one time. As used in this section, "accompany," "accompanied," or "accompanying" means direct control and supervision, including the ability to see and communicate with the youth hunter without the aid of artificial devices such as radios or binoculars, except for medically necessary devices such as hearing aids or eyeglasses.

7.6 No youth shall hunt under this section on privately owned land without first obtaining the permission of the owner or occupant.

8.0 Novice Turkey Hunting Weekend Season

8.1 Novice Turkey Hunting Weekend: This season shall be concurrent with the Youth Turkey Hunting Weekend as prescribed in 10 V.S.A. § 4908 and section 7.1 of this rule.

8.2 Limit: One bearded turkey per novice. A novice may also hunt during the spring season and take two bearded turkeys during that season.

8.3 To participate in the novice turkey hunting weekend, a qualified person must have a valid Vermont hunting and turkey license and a novice turkey hunting weekend license and follow the requirements of youth turkey hunting weekend.

8.4 The novice must be accompanied by an unarmed adult who holds a valid Vermont hunting license and who is 18 years of age or older. An adult accompanying a novice under this section shall accompany no more than two novice hunters at one time. As used in this section, "accompany," "accompanied," or "accompanying" means direct control and supervision, including the ability to see and communicate with the novice hunter without the aid of artificial devices such as radios or binoculars, except for medically necessary devices such as hearing aids or eyeglasses.

8.5 No novice shall hunt under this section on privately owned land without first obtaining the permission of the owner or occupant.

**TITLE 10 APPENDIX
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1.2 In accordance with 10 V.S.A. § 4082, this rule is designed to maintain the best health, population and utilization levels of the turkey flock.

1.3 In accordance with 10 V.S.A. § 4084, this rule establishes daily, season and possession limits for game, territorial limits, and the manner and means of taking; to establish territorial limits for the taking of turkeys; and to establish restrictions on taking based upon sex, maturity or other physical distinction.

2.0 Purpose The purpose of this regulation is to establish seasons for the taking of turkeys, to establish open Wildlife Management Units (WMUs) for the taking of turkeys, to establish methods of taking turkeys and to establish limits on the number of turkeys to be taken.

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3.3 "Legal means" means the taking of a turkey by shotgun, crossbow, or archery equipment in conformance with Section 6 of this rule.

3.4 "Novice" means a person who obtained their first hunting license within the past 12 months and is 16 years of age or older.

3.5 "Wildlife Management Unit" (WMU) means one of 21 geographical areas in Vermont for which big game regulations may vary.

3.6 "Youth" means a person who is 15 years of age or younger.

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4.1 Dates: May 1, through May 31, inclusive.

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4.3 Legal turkey: Only wild turkeys with beard(s).

4.4 Bag Limit: Two bearded wild turkeys per person per season.

4.5 Open WMUs: Open statewide

5.0 Fall Season.

5.1 Dates and Open WMU's.

(a) Bow and Arrow, and crossbow only:

i. Dates: From the 1st Saturday in October to the beginning of the shotgun/bow and arrow/crossbow season.

ii. Open WMUs: Open Statewide

(b) Shotgun/Bow & Arrow/Crossbow Season

i. Dates: Nine consecutive days beginning 21 days prior to the regular deer season, inclusive.

ii. Open WMUs: B, D, G, H, I, J, L, M, O, P, and Q and their respective subunits:.

(c) Shotgun/Bow & Arrow/Crossbow Season

i. Dates: For 16 consecutive days beginning 21 days prior to the regular deer season, inclusive.

ii. Open WMUs: subunits: WMUs F, K, and N and their respective subunits:.

5.2 Shooting hours: One-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset.

5.3 Legal Turkey: Any wild turkey.

5.4 Bag limit: One turkey per person.

6.0 Legal Method of Taking:

6.1 Only a shotgun, crossbow, or bow and arrow may be used.

6.2 Only number 2 or smaller size shot shall be used or possessed.

6.3 An arrowhead must be at least 7/8th of an inch in width and have two or more cutting edges.

6.4 Rifles shall not be used or carried by any person while hunting turkeys. A person taking a turkey with a crossbow or bow and arrow may carry a handgun in accordance with 10 V.S.A. § 4252(b), however, that person may not use the handgun to take turkey.

6.5 No person shall use dogs in the spring, nor electronic calling devices, bait, live decoys, or participate in cooperative drives during either season.

6.6 Any person wishing to hunt turkey with a crossbow or bow and arrow must hold proof of having held an archery license or a certificate of satisfactory completion of a bowhunter education course from Vermont or another state or province of Canada which is approved by the Commissioner.

6.7 Unless it is uncocked, a person shall not possess or transport a crossbow in or on a motor vehicle, motorboat, airplane, snowmobile, or other motor-propelled vehicle except as permitted in accordance with 10 V.S.A. § 4705.

7.0 Youth Turkey Hunting Weekend

7.1 Youth turkey hunting weekend shall be the Saturday and Sunday prior to opening day of spring turkey season on May 1. Legal shooting hours shall be one half hour before sunrise until 5 p.m.

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7.4 To participate in the youth turkey hunt, a qualified youth must be 15 years of age or younger and have a valid Vermont hunting and turkey license and a youth turkey hunting weekend license.

7.5 The youth must be accompanied by an unarmed adult who holds a valid Vermont hunting license and who is 18 years of age or older. An adult accompanying a youth under this section

shall accompany no more than two young people at one time. As used in this section, "accompany," "accompanied," or "accompanying" means direct control and supervision, including the ability to see and communicate with the youth hunter without the aid of artificial devices such as radios or binoculars, except for medically necessary devices such as hearing aids or eyeglasses.

7.6 No youth shall hunt under this section on privately owned land without first obtaining the permission of the owner or occupant.

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8.1 Novice Turkey Hunting Weekend; This season shall be concurrent with the Youth Turkey Hunting Weekend as prescribed in 10 V.S.A. § 4908 and section 7.1 of this rule.

8.2 Limit: One bearded turkey per novice. A novice may also hunt during the spring season and take two bearded turkeys during that season.

8.3 To participate in the novice turkey hunting weekend, a qualified person must have a valid Vermont hunting and turkey license and a novice turkey hunting weekend license and follow the requirements of youth turkey hunting weekend.

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VERMONT **GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

The Vermont Statutes Online

Title 10 Appendix : Vermont Fish And Wildlife Regulations

Chapter 001 : Game

Subchapter 002 : Birds

(Cite as: 10 App. V.S.A. § 22)

§ 22. Turkey Seasons

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3.5 "Permit" means a document issued by the Department authorizing the taking of a turkey.

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i. Dates: Nine consecutive days beginning 21 days prior to the regular deer season, inclusive.

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5.2 Shooting hours: One-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset.

5.3 Legal Turkey: Any wild turkey.

5.4 Bag limit: One turkey per person.

6.0 Legal Method of Taking:

Subdivision 6.1 effective until January 1, 2020; see subdivision 6.1 effective January 1, 2020 .

6.1 Only a shotgun, crossbow, or bow and arrow may be used. A cross bow may only be used by a hunter who is 50 years or older or has a permit in accordance with 10 V.S.A. § 4711.

Subdivision 6.1 effective January 1, 2020; see subdivision 6.1 effective until January 1, 2020 .

6.1 Only a shotgun, crossbow, or bow and arrow may be used.

6.2 Only number 2 through number 8 shot shall be used or possessed.

6.3 An arrowhead must be at least 7/8th of an inch in width and have two or more cutting edges.

6.4 Rifles shall not be used or carried by any person while hunting turkeys. A person taking a turkey with a crossbow or bow and arrow may carry a handgun in accordance with 10 V.S.A. § 4252(b), however, that person may not use the handgun to take turkey.

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7.0 Youth Turkey Hunting Weekend

7.1 Youth turkey hunting weekend shall be the Saturday and Sunday prior to opening day of spring turkey season on May 1.

7.2 Legal Turkey: Only bearded turkeys may be taken.

7.3 Bag limit: One bearded turkey per youth. A youth may also hunt during the spring season and take two bearded turkeys during that season.

7.4 Season: One half hour before sunrise until 5 p.m. (Added 1982, Fish and Game Board Reg. No. 938, §§ 1-3, eff. Jan. 1, 1983; amended 1983, No. 158 (Adj. Sess.), eff. April 13, 1984; 1985, Fish and Wildlife Board Reg. No. 956, eff. March 7, 1985; 1985, Fish and Wildlife Board Reg. No. 957, eff. July 5, 1985; 1987, Fish and Wildlife Board Reg. No. 957, eff. Jan. 1, 1987; 1988, Fish and Wildlife Board Reg. No. 974, eff. April 12, 1988; 1990, Fish and Wildlife Board Reg. No. 981, eff. April 27, 1990; 1992, Fish and Wildlife Board Reg. No. 981, eff. November

14, 1992; 1993, Fish and Wildlife Board Reg. No. 996, eff. April 22, 1993; 1993, Fish and Wildlife Board Reg. No. in subsec. (E) 1007, eff. Feb. 13, 1994; 1998, Fish and Wildlife Board Reg. No. 1007, eff. April 3, 1998; 1999, Fish and Wildlife Board Reg. No. 1007, eff. Feb. 17, 1999; 2002, Fish and Wildlife Board Reg. No. 1007, eff. Aug. 3, 2002; 2003, Fish and Wildlife Board Reg. No. 1007a, eff. Feb. 12, 2003, 2003, Fish and Wildlife Board Reg. No. 1007, eff. March 5, 2004, 2010, Fish and Wildlife Board Reg. eff. July 9, 2010; 2015, Fish and Wildlife Board Reg., eff. Jan. 1, 2016; 2016, Fish and Wildlife Board Reg., eff. Jan. 1, 2017; 2019, Fish and Wildlife Board Reg., eff. Jan. 1, 2020.)



Proposed Rules Postings

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Deadline For Public Comment

Deadline: Sep 02, 2020

Please submit comments to the agency or primary contact person listed below, before the deadline.

Rule Details

Rule Number:	20P018
Title:	Title 10 V.S.A. Appendix § 22 Turkey Seasons Rule.
Type:	Standard
Status:	Proposed
Agency:	Vermont Fish and Wildlife Board
Legal Authority:	10 V.S.A. §4082(a), 10 V.S.A. §4084
Summary:	The rule deletes a couple of unnecessary definitions, defines youth and novice hunters, establishes a novice turkey hunting weekend at the same time as the youth turkey hunting

weekend, sets forth the requirements related to hunting licenses and the attendance of an unarmed adult hunter for youth and novice hunters, and amends shot size to allow smaller shot. Novice hunters are defined as new hunters who have received their first hunting license within the last calendar year.

Persons Affected:

Hunters and their families, Department staff including wardens; businesses that sell hunting equipment, food, gas and lodging; landowners, foresters, farmers and other members of the public.

Economic Impact:

The proposed rule will create more opportunity for turkey hunting by offering a novice turkey hunting weekend to new hunters, and allowing smaller shot sizes to be used for turkey hunting. A novice turkey hunting season will potentially result in more new hunters, who would purchase future hunting licenses and hunting equipment. We estimate that there may be approximately 200 new resident licenses sold for a total of \$28.00 for the base license and \$23.00 for the turkey tag; and 20 nonresident licenses at \$102.00 for the base license and \$38.00 for the turkey tag. This is a total of \$10,200 and \$2,800 for license fees respectively.

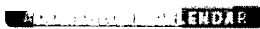
Posting date:

Jul 22,2020

Hearing Information

Information for Hearing # 1

Hearing date:

08-24-2020 6:30 PM 

Location:

Zoom Meeting: ID 862 2360 4609

Address:

Meeting Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86223604609>

City:

Dial in Phone Number: 929-436-2866

State:

VT

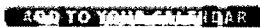
Zip:

n/a

Hearing Notes:

Information for Hearing # 2

Hearing date:

08-25-2020 6:30 PM 

Location:

Zoom Meeting ID: 879 2805 7824

Address: Meeting Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87928057824>
City: Dial in Phone Number: 929-436-2866
State: VT
Zip: n/a
Hearing Notes:

Contact Information

Information for Contact # 1

Level: Primary
Name: Catherine J. Gessing
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Website: <https://vtfishandwildlife.com/about-us/fish-and-wildlife-board/board>
Address: [VIEW WEBSITE](#)

Information for Contact # 2

Level: Secondary
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Email: mark.scott@vermont.gov
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Keyword Information

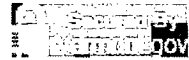
Keywords:

Novice
Youth
Turkey
Shot
Hunting



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PROPOSED STATE RULES

By law, public notice of proposed rules must be given by publication in newspapers of record. The purpose of these notices is to give the public a chance to respond to the proposals. The public notices for administrative rules are now also available online at <https://secure.vermont.gov/SOS/rules/>. The law requires an agency to hold a public hearing on a proposed rule, if requested to do so in writing by 25 persons or an association having at least 25 members.

To make special arrangements for individuals with disabilities or special needs please call or write the contact person listed below as soon as possible.

To obtain further information concerning any scheduled hearing(s), obtain copies of proposed rule(s) or submit comments regarding proposed rule(s), please call or write the contact person listed below. You may also submit comments in writing to the Legislative Committee on Administrative Rules, State House, Montpelier, Vermont 05602 (802-828-2231).

Title 10 V.S.A. Appendix § 2 Report, Big Game.

Vermont Proposed Rule: 20P017

AGENCY: Vermont Fish and Wildlife Board

CONCISE SUMMARY: The rule authorizes the Commissioner to allow electronic reporting of turkey and deer and allow electronic reporting of moose and bear in an emergency.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT: Catherine Gjessing, Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife, 1 National Life Drive, Dewey 1, Montpelier, VT 05620 Tel: 802 595 - 3331 Fax: 802 828 –1250 E-Mail: catherine.gjessing@vermont.gov URL: <https://vtfishandwildlife.com/about-us/fish-and-wildlife-board/board-rules>.

FOR COPIES: Mark Scott, Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife, 1 National Life Drive, Dewey 1, Montpelier, VT 05620 Tel: 802-777-4217 Fax: 802-828-1250 E-Mail: mark.scott@vermont.gov.

Title 10 V.S.A. Appendix § 22 Turkey Seasons Rule.

Vermont Proposed Rule: 20P018

AGENCY: Vermont Fish and Wildlife Board

CONCISE SUMMARY: The rule deletes a couple of unnecessary definitions, defines youth and novice hunters, establishes a novice turkey hunting weekend at the same time as the youth turkey hunting weekend, sets forth the requirements related to hunting licenses and the attendance of an unarmed adult hunter for youth and novice hunters, and amends shot size to allow smaller shot. Novice hunters are defined as new hunters who have received their first hunting license within the last calendar year.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CONTACT: Catherine Gjessing, Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife, 1 National Life Drive, Dewey 1, Montpelier, VT 05620 Tel: 802 595 - 3331 Fax: 802 828 – 1250 E-Mail: catherine.gjessing@vermont.gov URL: <https://vtfishandwildlife.com/about-us/fish-and-wildlife-board/board-rules>.

FOR COPIES: Mark Scott, Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife, 1 National Life Drive, Dewey 1, Montpelier, VT 05620 Tel: 802-777-4217 Fax: 802-828-1250 E-Mail: mark.scott@vermont.gov.
