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Dear Simon

Duck season submission.

VDHA recommends that a full length season of 10 birds including all species including no more than two blue wing .

Commencing on the traditional third weekend in March and terminating on the Queens birthday weekend.

Taking into consideration the phenomenal flooding events throughout Victoria have led to the best multiple breeding events and a massive Increase in birds available for harvest any environmental conditions that would affect the gazetted duck season simply do not exist.

Considering the IAHM dataset used by the GMA is inconsistent year by year the VDHA reject this process out of hand the reasoning behind is this.

The GMA relies heavily on the EAWS to assist setting of the duck season noting that the author of the EAWS has stated that the survey should not be used to set The annual Duck season.

The AWS no longer reflects real-time conditions on the ground in Vic as significant flooding had not reached the terminal water bodies from when the study was undertaken.

The GMA recommendation of 4 birds per Hunter per day translates into four birds for Hunter per day multiplied by the number of days in the season of 90 days.

This would reflect the an environmentally sustainable number of 360 birds per hunter/license per season would be an acceptable Harvest per year.

If adopted VDHA would recommend that the number of birds taken per Hunter should be cumulative of this number and Hunter should be able to either spread this out over the entire season of four birds per day thereby hunting every day or take this number over a series of reduced hunting opportunities not exceeding 20 bird per day or not exceeding 360 for the season which would be a reasonable and sustainable harvest. At the hunters option and regulated by the GMA.

Announcement of the season should be in a reasonable time frame in order for participants to organise time off work and hunting supplies to order stock for the season in advance.

Yours sincerely
Kev Gommers
VDHA Secretary

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