



Game Management Authority
Level 2, 535 Bourke Street
MELBOURNE Vic 3000

Duck And Quail Hunting Australia Victorian Duck Season Submission 2023

Duck and Quail Hunting Australia are once again privileged to be able to make a Victorian duck season submission for the 2023 season.

Summary:

The bureau of meteorology (BOM) have stated that, Victorian's year-to-date rainfall total for January to December was around 829 mm, which was 35% above average and the highest since 1974.

Statewide, rainfall was around 96% above the 1961-1990 average.

The November average of 52.0mm was the fifth highest on record and the highest November rainfall since 1954.

With record breaking rainfall over the state for the past 12 months, it has made it a prime breeding season for all ducks species, with most duck species reported to have had 2-3 breeding cycles over the past 12 months.

“The Victorian duck season is prescribed under the Wildlife (Game) Regulations 2012 to occur every year between the third Saturday in March and ending on the second Monday in June.

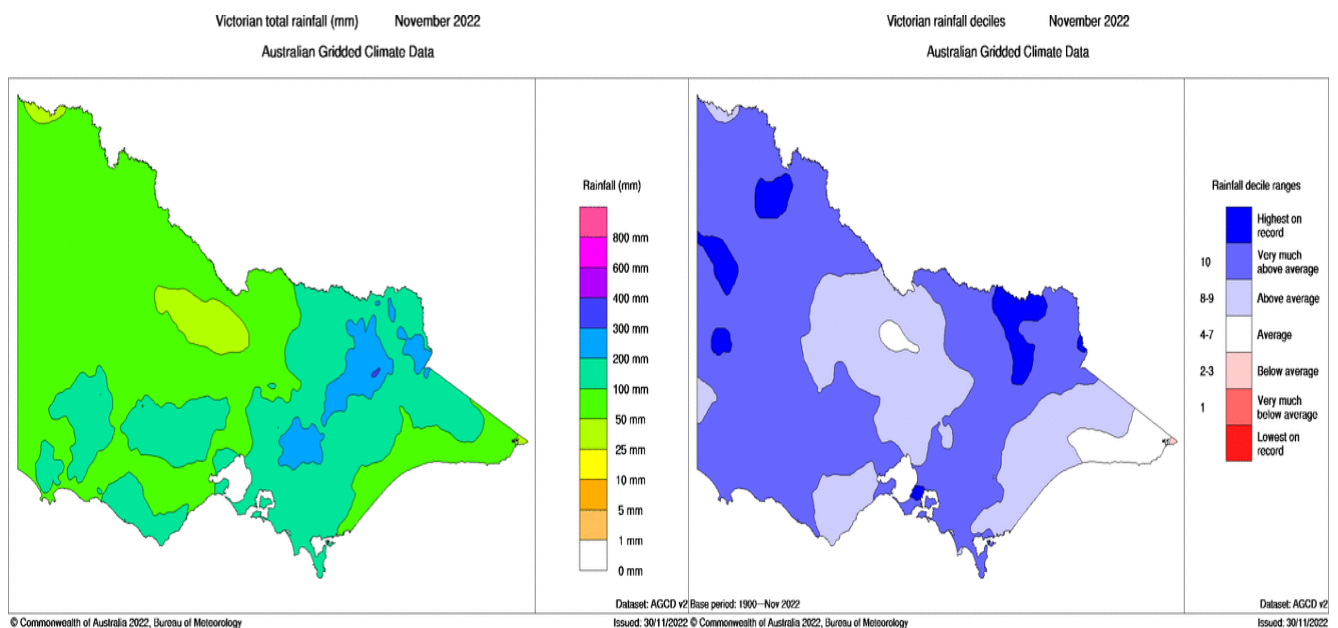
All game species and season lengths in Victoria are legislated, yet the duck season is the only one that undergoes a process of annual submissions and relies on the Ministerial review.

*The duck season needs to stay as to what is **legislated**.*

The Interim Adaptive Harvest Model Specific seasonal arrangements for duck hunting in Victoria are set using the Interim Adaptive Harvest Model (IAHM). The IAHM and a move to a mature Adaptive Harvest Model promise to deliver stable, full-length seasons, with a variable bag limit based on seasonal conditions. Both the IAHM and the AHM are not what's currently legislated.

-Hunting in Victoria, including duck and quail hunting, is a legal and legitimate activity carried out by tens of thousands of Victorians each year. It brings hundreds of millions of dollars annually into the Victorian economy.

-If the duck season is to be altered as to what's already legislated, it should be announced in a timely fashion 2-3 months before the season commences to allowed hunters and business owners, time to prepare for the up coming duck season.



<http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/current/month/vic/summary.shtml>

Conclusion:

With Victoria having record-breaking rainfall in the past 12 months making it prime duck breeding conditions. These prime breeding conditions will continue well into next season with more heavy rainfall still predicted to fall.

Duck and Quail Hunting Australia strongly recommend for a

-Full 12-week duck season,

-Commencing at 7am on the traditional third Saturday in March until 30 minutes after sunset on the second Monday in June,

-All the 8 Game species to be hunted throughout the season.

-Ten bird per day bag limit including an additional two Blue-winged Shoveler.

-Plus an additional 5 game species ducks to be added to the bag limit due to hunters having a heavily reduced bag limit the past few seasons, yet hunters are still having to pay full game license fees, which are bases on having a full legislated duck season.

Rafic Dimachki

Duck and Quail Hunting Australia

23 December 2022