

Submission 1 – Stu Henderson on behalf of Christchurch Rod & Gun Club

Hi Richie

Our Club CH CH Rod and Gun Club went thru the regulation review details you emailed us

- Summer Season for ducks still a limited no of our guys got out due to covid and lock downs also the flu during the season time, but all thought it was worth retaining as it was a great opportunity for hunter to get out with young hunters with out the hassle with gear etc to shoot lake Ellesmere.
- Spoony limit yes needs to be fixed
- Swan season needs work done on it none of our guys shot swans in august, but in talking about it we now have a recipe for swam salami, who knew?
- Shooting Parries over water our guys have done this for decades and would want it to remain so again Ellesmere shooting Parries Is where it all started for most of us.

Pretty much we would like every to remain as it is but change will come our clubs thoughts any way ,to you all thanks giving us the heads up.

Keep up the good work.

Cheers Stu

For Christchurch Rod and Gun Club

Submission 2 – Trevor Isitt

The final pheasant weekend is a little late as birds are pairing up at that stage, best 2 weeks earlier.

Submission 3 – James Kean

Hi there,

I wish to make a submission in regard to the North Canterbury Gamebird regulations and some concerns that I hold currently.

For reference in the past 3 years, I have hunted waterfowl for over 100 days in the Canterbury region bagging a large number of waterfowl in doing so. I am very invested in my waterfowl hunting year-round.

The first item I would like to address is the introduction of the summer mallard season in North Canterbury. I was extremely disappointed that this season was introduced on the basis of offering gamebird hunters extra opportunities in the region with currently the most opportunity to hunt gamebirds. The complete lack of science-based reasoning was very concerning and as such, I would recommend to **reduce or completely remove** the summer mallard season in North Canterbury.

The second item is in regards to the August Black Swan season, I am a strong believer in keeping this season due to the damage that black swans do to farmers' paddocks around Ellesmere throughout the winter period. This is extremely important following the reduction from 5 to 2 swans as part of the daily bag limit. Another change that follows no scientific-based reasoning but rather cultural influence. This, therefore, means it is not viable for hunters to go target swans during the season instead must wait until August generally after the damage has been done.

The final item I would like to comment on is the delay of the summer paradise shelduck season. I do not believe it should be delayed at all, farmers' crops are generally starting to be harvested around these times and Paradise ducks are already well mobbed up and damaging these crops.

The other items I am in agreeance with the current proposed regulations or changes as such do not have a comment.

If NC F&G is able to provide better justification for the points I have raised I look forward to hearing these.

Regards,

James Kean

Submission 4 – Colin Hewson

HI GUYS

I would like to table the following submissions for the up & coming Game Bird Regulations

1 Season length for Summer Mallard Season

Even though it is nice to have these weekends aligned with the C S I region , North Canterbury always seems to be a couple of weeks later with their harvesting . which should be taken into account when setting dates .

I also wonder whether the area around lake Ellesmere can sustain a summer mallard season , as a lot of the lakes mallards can be seen to concentrate into a few paddocks in big numbers ,which gives the impression that there is a lot more birds around than there actually is , which enables you to target a lot of the lake Ellesmere mallards, which over the two weekends can add up to large numbers of birds being taken , Especially when 6 - 10 guys hunt in a group over those paddocks

These birds are being taken away from being taken by the opening weekend hunters . Which make up a lot more licence holders than the active summer duck hunters .

I would like to suggest that the Summer mallard duck season in North Canterbury be in the area across the west side of the main highway 1 only, This protecting the Ellesmere numbers for opening. The parries could still stay in that area to still promote summer duck hunting for the hunter that wants to hunt them around Ellesmere cropping paddocks .

2 The Appropriateness of the Extended August Black Swan Season

This is a dark area with many parties concerned , but still needs to be addressed

First of all by taking the September month off the Season more permits had to be applied for as the swans were slightly later coming onto paddocks & still are . God knows what would happen if you take the month of August away also. But I suppose it hasn't got a big following for most of the hunters , if Permits were the only way to control the numbers you would have Accurate records to look back on

As long as the permits are issued for crop damage for the time they are needed then maybe and only maybe then it may work by running permits only from the end of July . Instead of the season running August & September.

I would like to see the permits issued for the gathering of Swan eggs made more public and also enforced a lot more with full information being recorded of how many eggs taken , the dates and by who .

Also make certain days they are only to be gathered so fish& game staff can be in the area to check on the numbers taken , then you will get true records to make decisions on like shorting seasons & bag numbers of swans

Many thanks
Colin Hewson

Submission 5 – Willie Duley

Submission on North Canterbury Fish & Game Bird Regulations

I wish to provide the following feedback on this year's review of the North Canterbury Game Bird Regulations:

Summer Mallard Season

I suggest North Canterbury (NC) F&G should either abandon the summer mallard season, or at the very least carry out a survey to establish how many NC gamebird license holders actively participate in and support it, to inform such a decision. Given NC F&G has a mandate to represent the best interests of their license holders, I would estimate that only a small percentage of hunters are utilising this additional summer hunting opportunity compared to the large number of hunters that do not use it and support it.

My concerns with the summer mallard season are that it erodes the historical value of opening weekend, and it can only have a negative impact on the traditional opening weekend and winter gamebird season which a far great proportion of license holders hunt and thus, should be given priority. From my own experiences, hunter success throughout the 2022 NC game bird season was poor, which is surprising given the numerous favourable storm and flood events we experienced this year, so I can only expect the discontent with the summer season to magnify. To justify the summer mallard season on the grounds of crop protection seems illogical given many of the birds are shot over burnt stubble etc. which provides minimal benefit to farmers (we have permits to disturb to address such issues), while the ethics of hunting such young ducks could also be questioned. I believe if increasing hunter opportunity is the goal of such a season, there are far better suited options that will avoid hunter conflict.

Mallard Bag Limit

Although it was extremely positive to see the staggered bag limit introduced following opening weekend, I believe the main season mallard (or aggregate bag) limit should be further reduced from 15 to 10 birds. Doing so will only increase hunter success and satisfaction rates, encourage hunters to better utilise every bird they harvest, and I don't believe we are currently bird numbers to justify otherwise.

Thanks for your consideration.

Regards,
Willie Duley