

From the Department of Game & Inland Fisheries 10/22/2007

Shotgun And Rabbit Regulation Changes

Richmond, VA — The Board of Game and Inland Fisheries recently passed a regulation that will take effect on October 26, 2007 that will make it legal to use unplugged shotguns for the hunting and taking of non-migratory game (this includes deer, bear, turkey, rabbit, squirrel, grouse, quail, bobcat, coyote, fox, raccoon, opossum, groundhog, and skunk). This is a change from what is printed in the Hunting & Trapping in Virginia, July 2007-June 2008 Regulations digest, in the second bullet under Legal Use of Firearms on page 21.

Shotguns must still be plugged to a three shell capacity if hunting and taking migratory game (this includes doves, crows, all ducks, all geese including resident Canada geese, tundra swans, rail, snipe, woodcock, gallinules, and moorhens).

The Board also passed a modification to the rabbit season, which begins November 3, 2007, by extending the season to the last legal hunting day in February. This change will be effective for this season. This is different from the season ending date listed in this year's Hunting & Trapping in Virginia, July 2007-June 2008 Regulations digest. All other rabbit hunting regulations as outlined in the regulations digest remain in effect.

At their meeting, the Board also approved other Wildlife regulations that will go into effect July 1, 2008. Additionally, they approved Wildlife Diversity and Fisheries regulations that will go into effect January 1, 2008.

For more information about hunting, fishing and boating regulations, hunting seasons, bag limits, license requirements, and to find a free Hunter Education course near you, visit the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries Web site at www.HuntFishVA.com

It is the mission of the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries to maintain optimum populations of all species to serve the needs of the Commonwealth; to provide opportunity for all to enjoy wildlife, inland fish, boating and related outdoor recreation; and to promote safety for persons and property in connection with these outdoor activities.

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