

2024 Migratory Game Bird Status and Season Recommendations

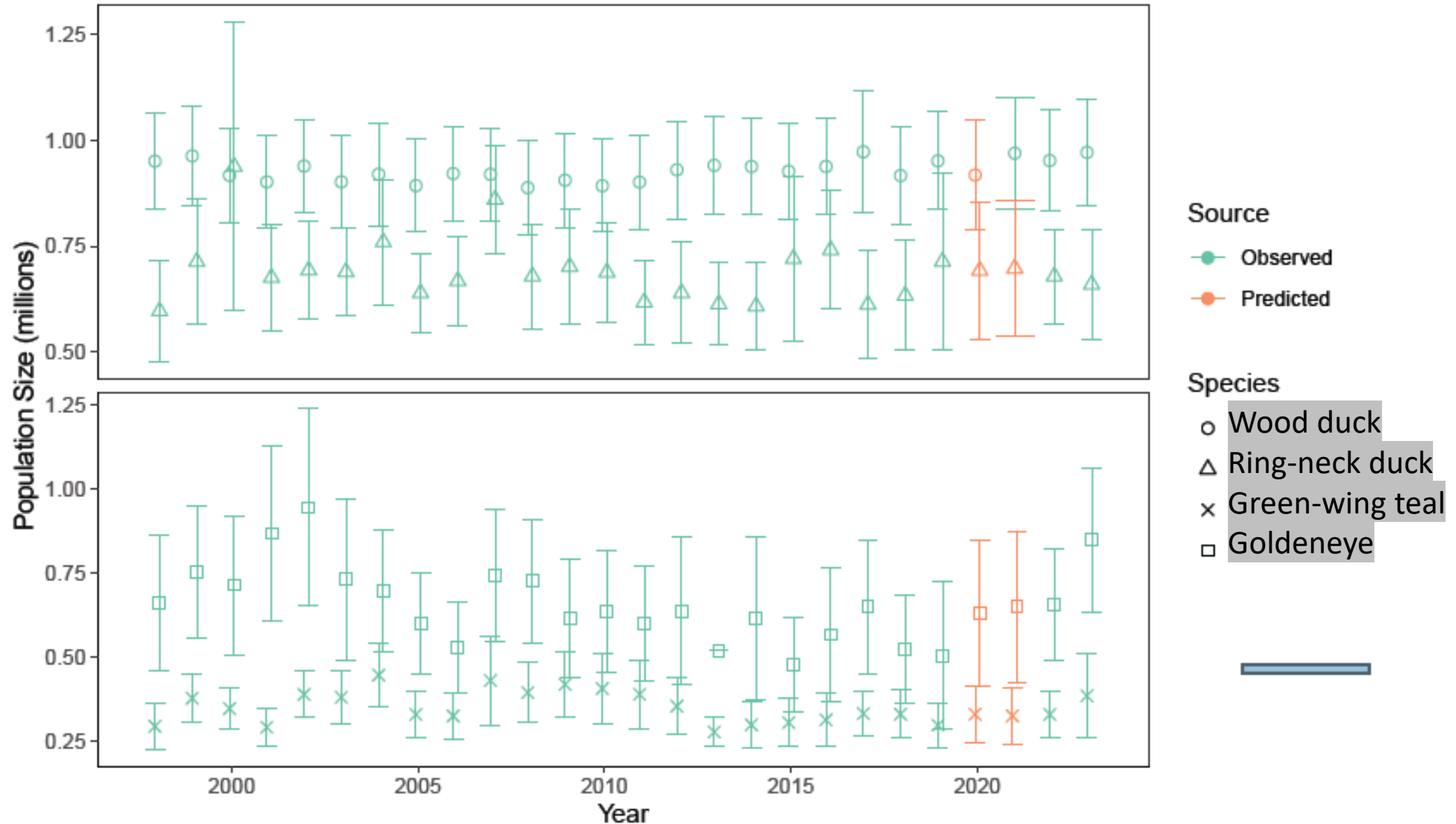


Atlantic Flyway: “Multi-stock” AHM duck harvest management

- 4 species: ~50% Atlantic Flyway harvest
- Represent wide-range of species life histories
- Expansive breeding and wintering distribution



Population estimates: AF Multi-Stock Species



2024 Atlantic Flyway Duck Seasons

- Multi-Stock Optimal Policy: Liberal 60/6 duck season
- Some (unchanged from last year) species restrictions (eg: scaup, pintail)



Canada Goose Populations: Atlantic Flyway



ATLANTIC FLYWAY CANADA GOOSE MANAGEMENT ZONES

Canada Goose Zones based on preponderant
fall-wintering population

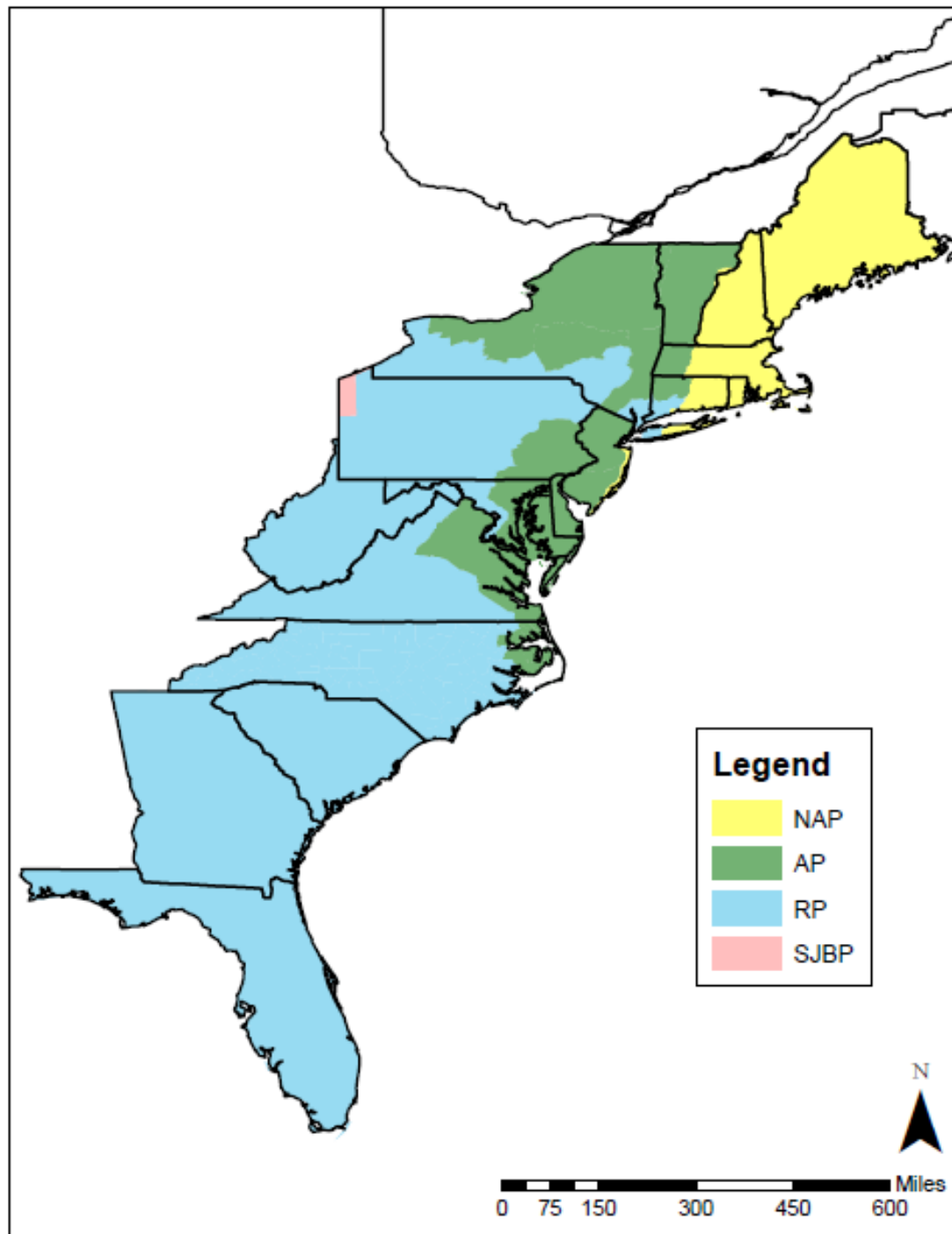
- Banding data
- Telemetry data

Status and Regulations (days/bag)

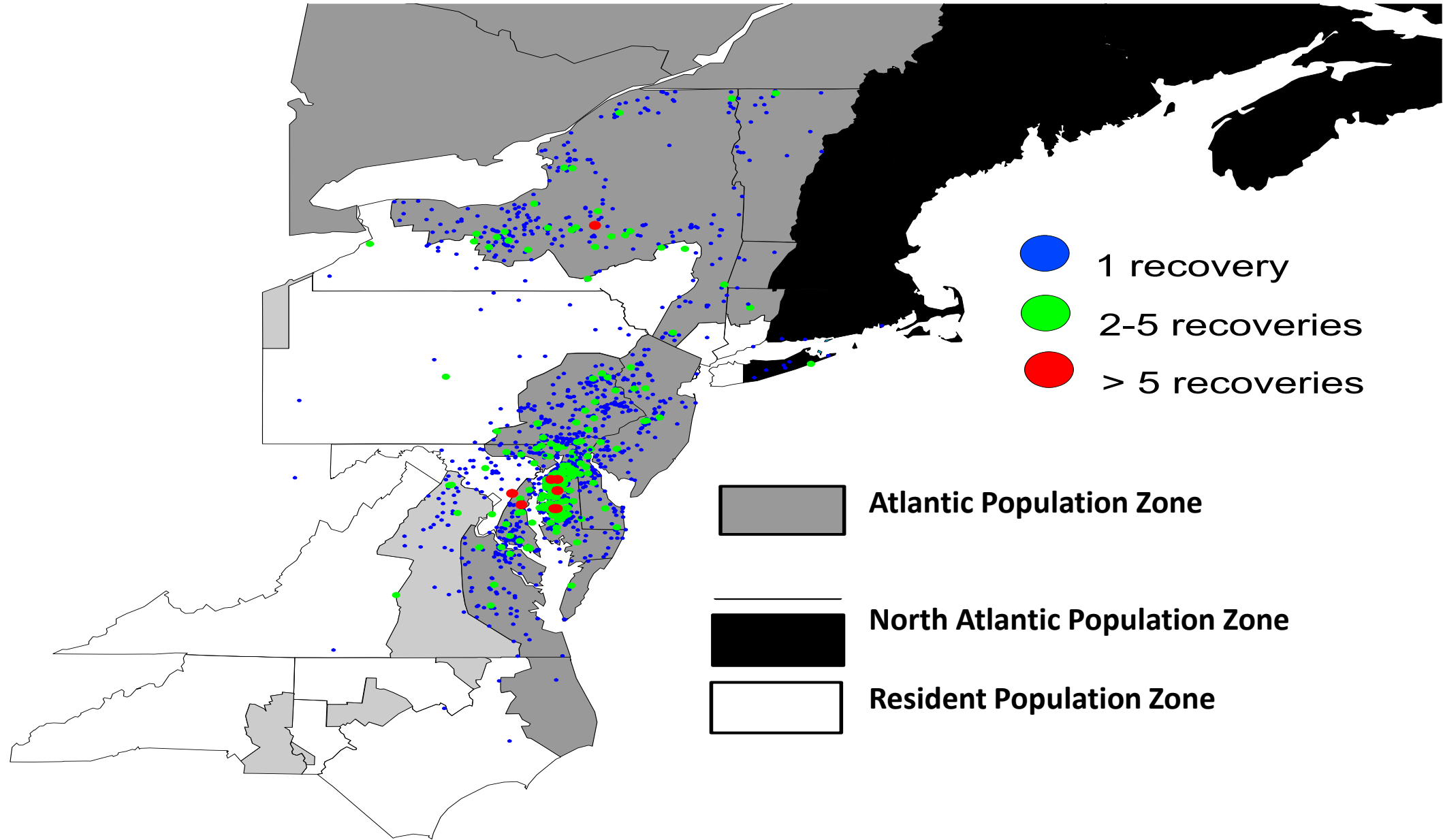
RP Zones: Overabundant; liberal (80/5) seasons

NAP Zones: Stable; (60/2 or 70/3) seasons

AP Zones: more variable regs but poorer status



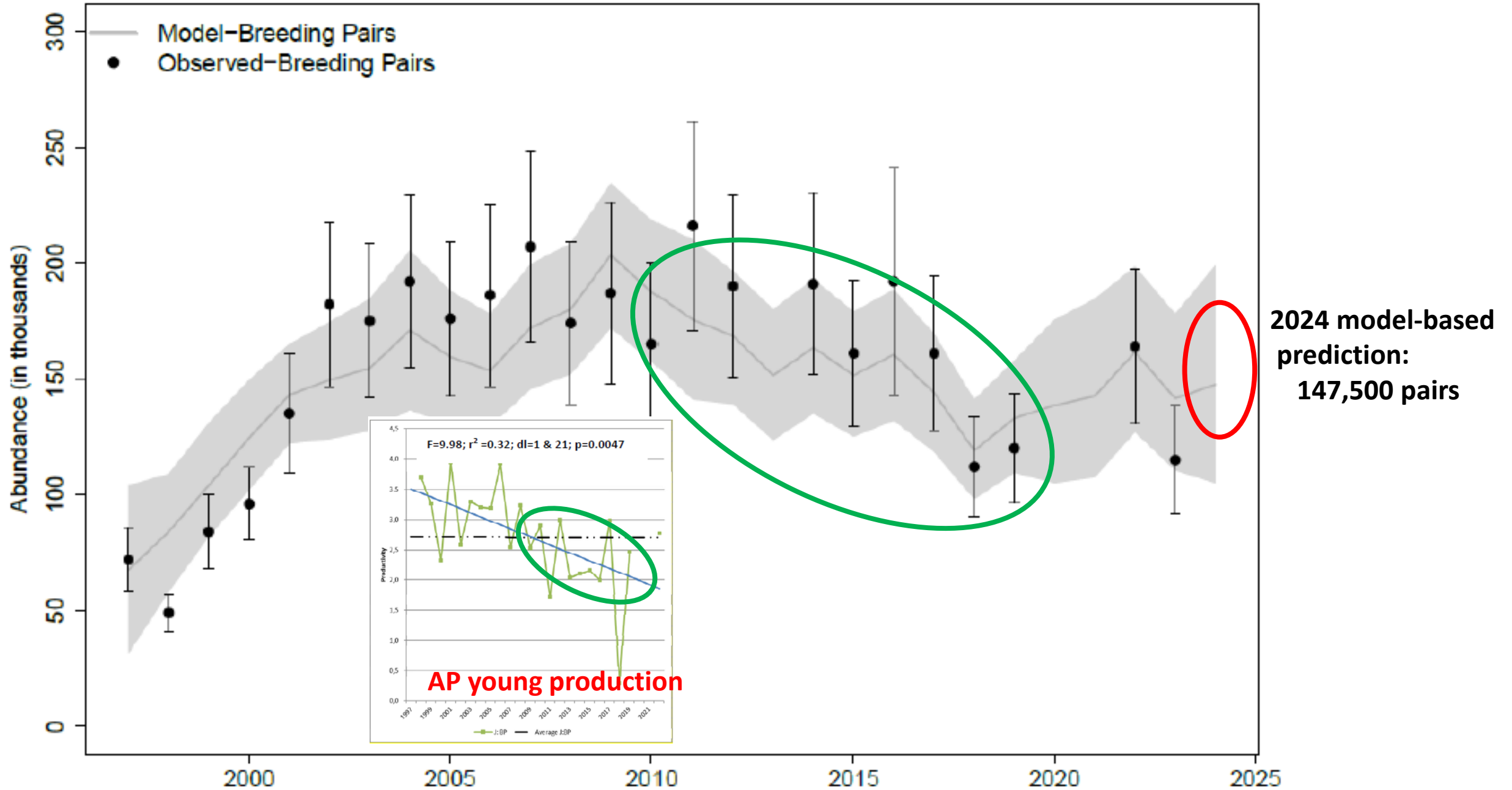
ATLANTIC POPULATION CANADA GOOSE BAND RECOVERIES



Status of Atlantic Population (AP) Canada Geese



Atlantic Population Canada Geese




Decision points: AP Canada Goose Harvest Strategy

2024:
147,500

Population Prediction (Pairs)	Harvest Package	Target Adult Harvest Rate	Packages for Chesapeake Region AP Areas Days/Bag	Packages for Mid-Atlantic and New England Region AP Areas Days/Bag
> 160,000	Liberal	7%	45/2	45/3
≤ 160,00 and >125,000	Moderate	5%	30/2	30/3
≤ 125,000 and ≥60,000	Restrictive	3%	30/1	30/1
< 60,000	Closed	0%	Closed	Closed

Atlantic Population Canada Goose Seasons 2024

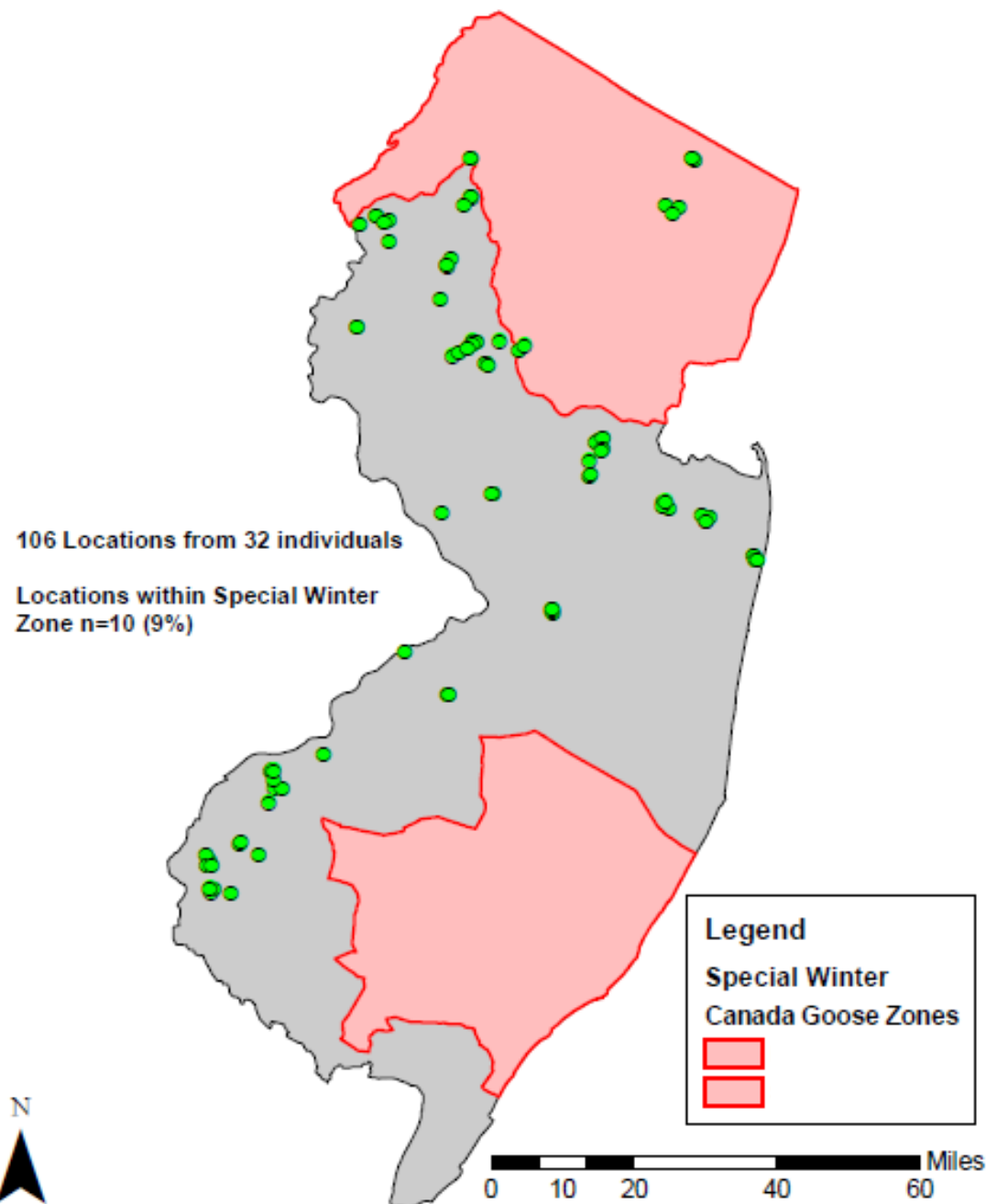
- New Jersey
 - Regular Season AP Areas (North and South Zones): 30/3 ( 45/3 last year)
 - Regular Season NAP Areas (Coastal Zone): remains 60/2 concurrent with duck season
 - September and “Special Winter” seasons: no change
- Chesapeake states (MD, DE, VA): 30/2
- AP Zones in Quebec and Ontario remain in reduced bag limit

Atlantic Population Canada Goose Telemetry Project

- ~400 GPS/GSM collars on female AP Canada geese 2022-24
- Increase understanding of migration routes and timing, wintering areas (eg: adequacy of current zoning), nesting ecology
- Most units breeding grounds northern Quebec with some wintering areas (MD, VA, NC)
- Units to provide ≥ 5 years data



**Locations of Atlantic Population Canada Geese
Jan 15 through Feb 15, 2023 & 2024**

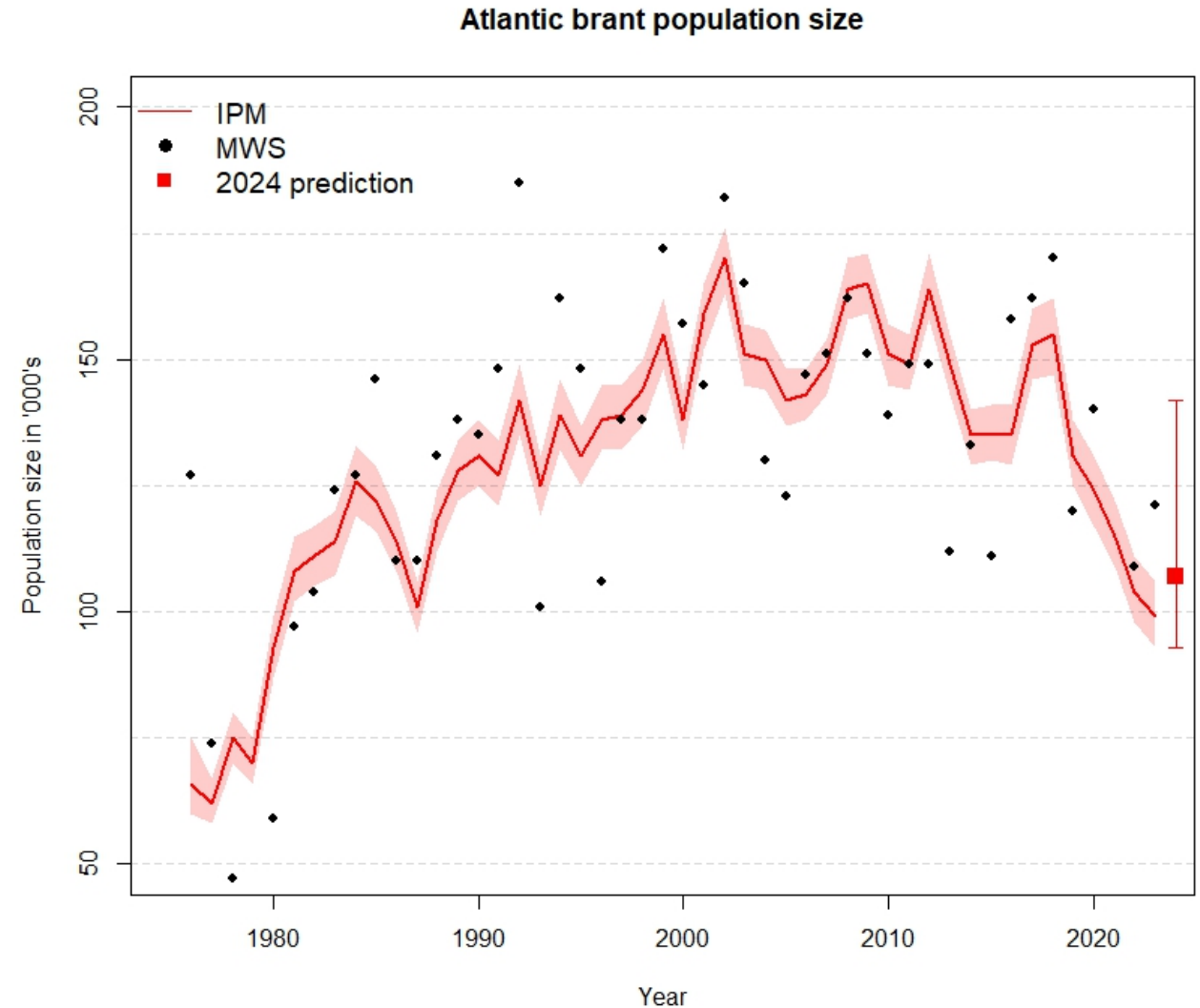


Status Atlantic Brant



Atlantic brant harvest regulation 2024

- Atlantic Flyway uses model-based Atlantic brant harvest strategy
- IPM predicts Mid-Winter Survey
- 2024 IPM prediction: **109,000** brant
 - 115,000 is “cut point” for 30/1 season
 - 2024 MWS was 112,000
- Remain at 30 days, 1 bird bag



ANNUAL PROCESS: MIGRATORY BIRD REGULATIONS

- States participate through 4 (*Atlantic*) Flyway Councils
 - Councils make recommendations to USFWS on hunting seasons
 - Atlantic Flyway Council: met September 2023
- US FWS annually promulgate **framework regulations** input from Flyway Councils
 - Bag limits, season length, earliest opening and latest closing dates
 - USFWS Regulations Committee: met October 2023
- States choose within federal frameworks of Proposed Rule published in Fed Register.
State regulations can be more restrictive, but not more liberal, than federal frameworks

PROVISION FOR PUBLIC COMMENT: published annually in **Federal Register** 50 CFR Part 20

- ***Preliminary Rule:*** Intent to have hunting seasons and any harvest strategy changes
- ***Proposed Rule:*** Season dates, bag limits, framework dates published

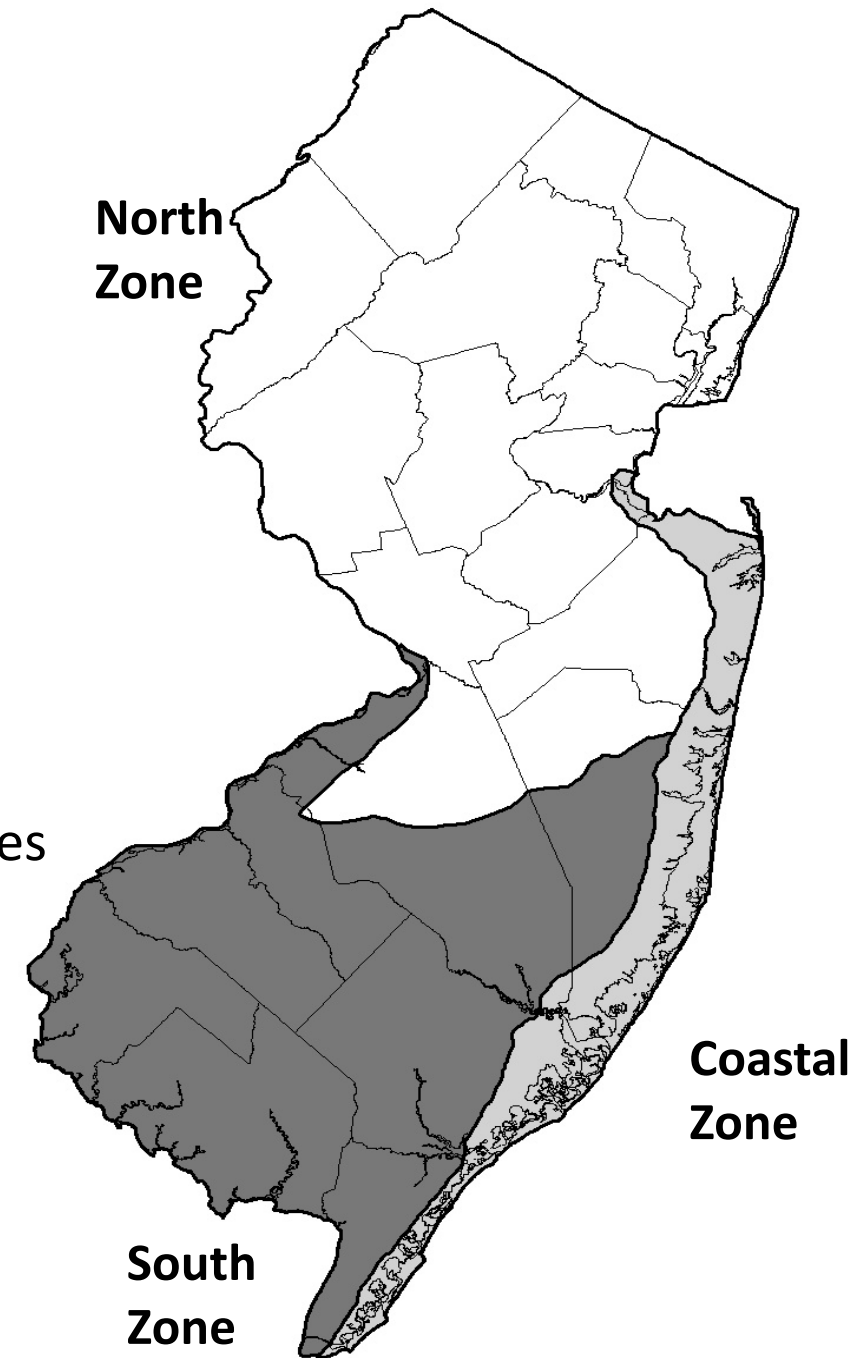
ROLE TODAY TO PRESENT:

- **Proposed 2024-25 dates following consult with NJ Migratory Bird Committee (March 12) and 30-day public comment period**
- **Council will need to vote today on 2024-25 season dates/bag limits**

New Jersey Waterfowl Zones

Different:

- Habitat types
- Duck species
- Migration chronologies
- Allows for staggered season dates



2024-25 PRIMARY SEASONS

NORTH ZONE

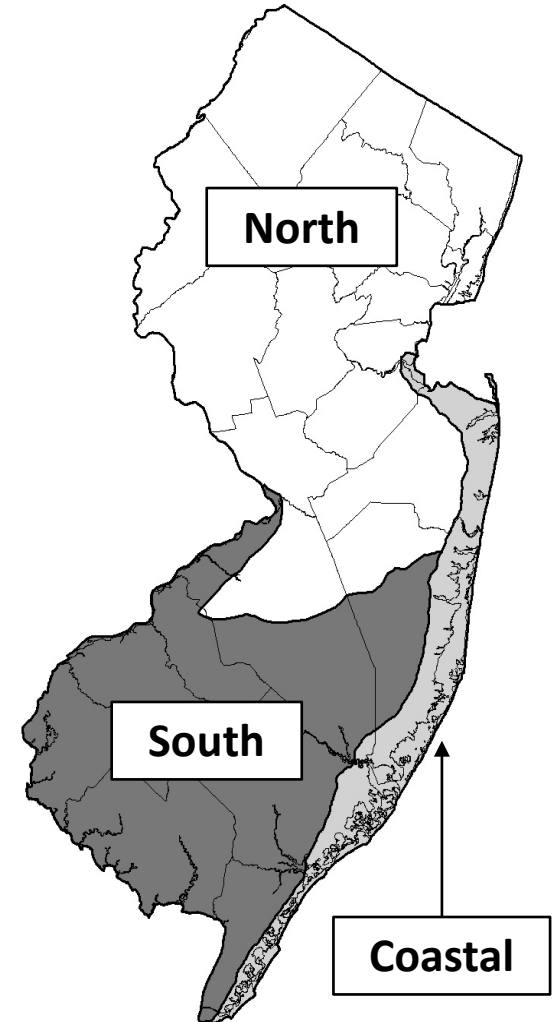
Ducks:	Oct. 12 – Oct. 19	Nov. 16 – Jan. 16
Brant:	Nov. 16 – Nov. 30	Dec. 14 – Jan. 2
Canada Goose:	Nov. 28 – Nov. 30	Dec. 26 – Jan. 25

SOUTH ZONE

Ducks:	Oct. 19 – Oct. 26	Nov. 23 – Jan. 23
Brant:	Nov. 23 – Nov. 30	Dec. 14 – Jan. 9
Canada Goose:	Nov. 28 – Nov. 30	Dec. 26 – Jan. 25

COASTAL ZONE

Ducks & C. Goose:	Nov. 9 – Nov. 13	Nov. 28 – Jan. 31
Brant:	Nov. 28 – Dec. 7	Dec. 14 – Jan. 7



Youth and Veterans/Active Military Days

Youth Waterfowl Days

North Zone: Oct. 5

South Zone: Oct. 12

Coastal Zone: Oct. 26

Veterans/Active Military Day

Statewide: Nov. 2

“Joint” Youth and Veterans/Active Military Day

Statewide: Feb. 1

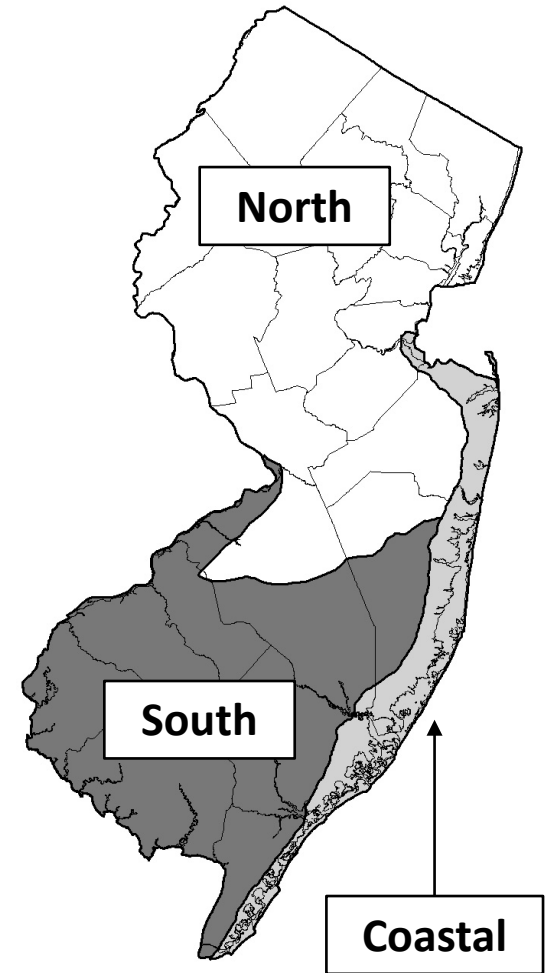





Table 1. New Jersey Duck Seasons: All Zones, 2024-25

 = Ducks  = Youth Only Day  = Youth & Veterans/Active Military  = Veterans/Active Military Only Day  = Holidays

[illegible][illegible]

		February						
		S	S	M	T	W	R	F
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
North Zone								
South Zone								
Coastal Zone								

83 different "standard" hunting days from 60-day season

11 Saturdays in North/South Zones and 10 in Coastal zone

15 different Saturdays for hunters willing to cross zones

Canada Goose

September Season (Statewide)

Sept. 2 - Sept. 30

Bag limit: 15 Canada geese

Special Winter Season (Two Distinct Zones)

Jan. 27 – Feb. 15

Bag limit: 5 singly or in aggregate to include cackling and white-fronted geese

Light Geese

Regular Season

Statewide: Oct. 17 – Feb. 15

Bag limit: 25 in aggregate to include snow geese and Ross's geese

Conservation Order

Statewide: Feb. 17 – Apr. 5

Bag limit: None; includes snow geese and Ross's geese

WEBLESS SPECIES

Woodcock

North Zone: **Oct. 19 – Oct. 26**
Oct. 29 – Nov. 30

South Zone: **Nov. 9 – Dec. 7**
Dec. 19 – Dec. 31

Rails and Gallinule

Sept. 2 – Nov. 21

Snipe

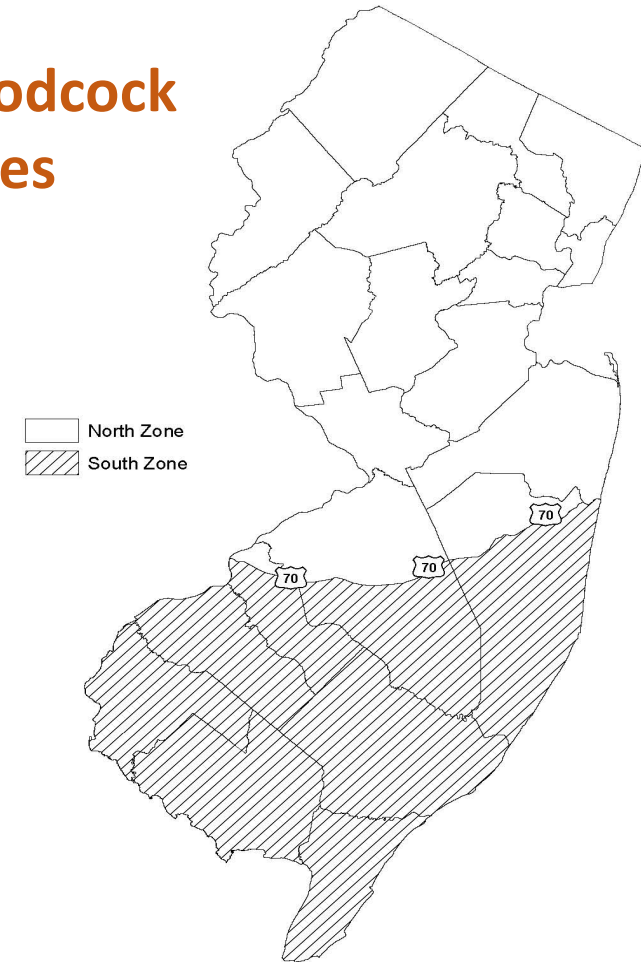
Sept. 7 – Jan. 9

Crows (Mon., Thur., Fri., & Sat.)

Aug. 12 – Dec. 7; Dec. 16 – Mar. 15

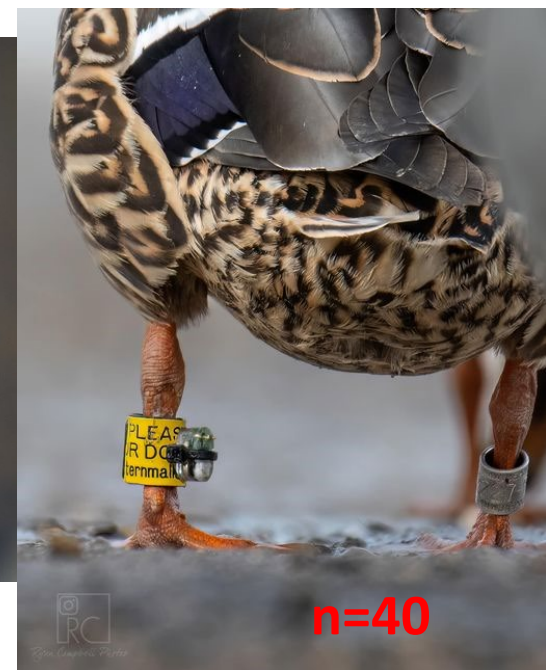
Mourning dove, king rail, sandhill crane: **Closed**

Woodcock Zones



Summary 2024-25 NJ Season Selection Comments

Comment	Number
Not within scope of season dates	22
(subset of above: more CAGO hunting opportunity)	15
Support proposal	4
Not specific enough to categorize	6
Miscellaneous (conflict 0800 pheasant opening day)	1
NZ ducks should have more Oct; less Jan days	1
SZ woodcock season should be later	1
Brant season later	1
Close mallard season	1
Close brant season	2
Close snow goose Conservation Order	1
Unrelated Mig birds	1
Oppose Mig bird hunting	3
Total	44
Number unique individuals:	39



Winter 2024

\$80,000 electronic trackers

NJFW: \$20,000

Questions?

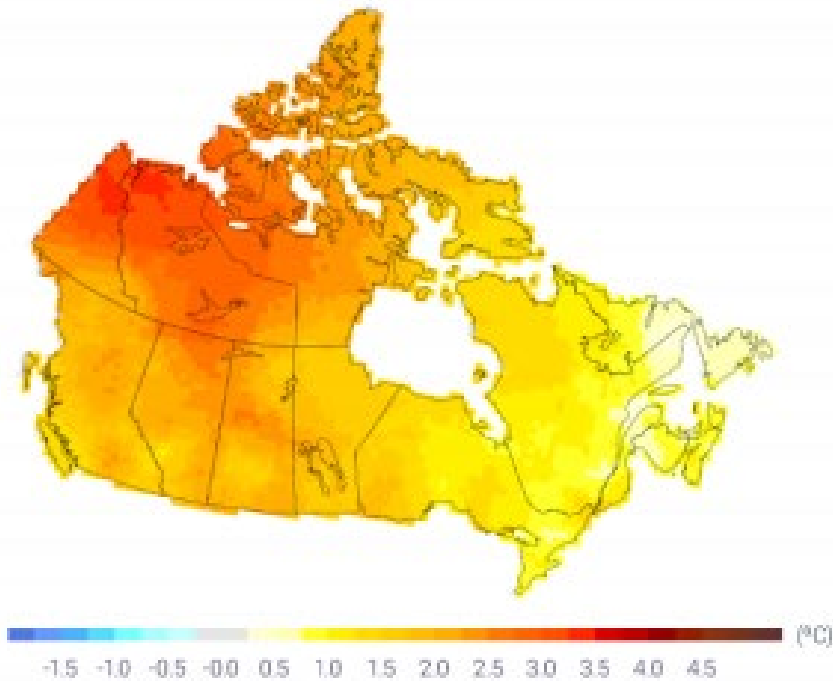


What about global warming, especially in Arctic?

Good for arctic breeding geese?



a) 1948–2016



b) 1948–2016



What about global warming, especially in Arctic?

