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Waterfowl 9:00am season opener

32-4-2015

The Problem:

Wisconsin Waterfowl hunting season begins at 9:00am on opening morning and there is no legitimate reason for this.

I spoke to the Manager of Wildlife Research Section of Iowa, Willy Suchy, and to Manager of Enforcement of Minnesota, Major Gregg Salo, about their ^{states} waterfowl opener being 30 minutes before sunrise. Both said that there have been no ill-effects with the time waterfowl season opens. They both were very positive about opening time being 30 minutes before sunrise.

Unofficially speaking with Wisconsin DNR Officers, they have all agreed that there is no good reason to begin the waterfowl season at 9:00am.

I have been told this rule is for early morning safety reasons. This rule stops no one from getting to their hunting spots early. I use to hunt opening morning every year and boat landings are full by 4:00-5:00am. I no longer hunt on opening morning because it is a waste of time, sadly.

This rule also doesn't prevent violators who shoot early, because no matter the start time the same people will violate this rule.

Think of making this a rule for the deer and/or the turkey hunter. You can go out into the woods opening morning, but you must wait until 9:00am to shoot because "It's safer".

By waiting till 9:00am Wisconsin Waterfowl hunters missed out on arguably the best time of day to hunt. While listening to neighboring states shoot all morning.

This rule is ridiculous and does nothing for the safety of the sport or management of the resource.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Conservation Congress at its annual meeting held in La Crosse County on April 13th, 2015 recommends that the Conservation Congress work with the department to take action to correct this situation by introducing a rule change allowing Waterfowl season to open 30 minutes before sunrise.

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