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By: **Delegates Boutin, Cane, Glassman, McComas, O'Donnell, Owings, and Weir**

Introduced and read first time: February 13, 2003  
Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations  
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Committee Report: Favorable  
House action: Adopted  
Read second time: March 21, 2003

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CHAPTER 183

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Natural Resources - Hunting Wild Waterfowl - Susquehanna Flats**

3 FOR the purpose of altering certain distances that a person must be from shore when  
4 hunting wild waterfowl in the Susquehanna Flats while the person is standing  
5 in water on the natural bottom, in a boat that is drifting or being sculled, or in  
6 a boat that is anchored; and generally relating to hunting wild waterfowl in the  
7 Susquehanna Flats.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
9 Article - Natural Resources  
10 Section 10-604 through 10-606  
11 Annotated Code of Maryland  
12 (2000 Replacement Volume and 2002 Supplement)

13 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
14 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

15 **Article - Natural Resources**

16 10-604.

17 (a) A person may hunt wild waterfowl while standing in water on the natural  
18 bottom only in the waters of the Susquehanna Flats, the nontidal waters of the  
19 Potomac River, and in other waters of the State in areas and on days the Department  
20 prescribes by regulation.

1 (b) A person may hunt wild waterfowl while standing in water on the natural  
2 bottom at a licensed offshore stationary blind or blind site.

3 (c) A person hunting wild waterfowl while standing in water on the natural  
4 bottom shall remain at least 250 yards from all offshore stationary blinds or blind  
5 sites or another person hunting wild waterfowl offshore.

6 (d) (1) A person hunting wild waterfowl while standing in water on the  
7 natural bottom shall be at least 800 yards from shore including shore emerging at  
8 mean low water except in nontidal waters of the Potomac River, IN THE WATERS OF  
9 THE SUSQUEHANNA FLATS, or while hunting at a licensed stationary blind or blind  
10 site.

11 (2) IN THE WATERS OF THE SUSQUEHANNA FLATS, A PERSON HUNTING  
12 WILD WATERFOWL WHILE STANDING IN WATER ON THE NATURAL BOTTOM SHALL  
13 BE AT LEAST 400 YARDS FROM SHORE INCLUDING SHORE EMERGING AT MEAN LOW  
14 WATER.

15 (e) A person may not hunt wild waterfowl while standing in State waters on  
16 the natural bottom when the natural bottom is privately owned, unless the hunter  
17 has the written permission of the landowner.

18 (f) Except at a licensed stationary blind or blind site, a nonresident may not  
19 hunt wild waterfowl while standing in water on the natural bottom unless  
20 accompanied by a Maryland resident.

21 10-605.

22 (a) A person may hunt wild waterfowl from a boat that is drifting or being  
23 sculled, only in:

24 (1) The nontidal waters of the Potomac River, Conococheague Creek, and  
25 the Monocacy River;

26 (2) The Susquehanna Flats, Elk River, and that portion of the Sassafra  
27 River in Cecil County located west of 75 degrees 58 minutes 45 seconds;

28 (3) Chincoteague Bay, Sinepuxent Bay, Isle of Wight, Assawoman Bay,  
29 and their respective tributaries in Worcester County; or

30 (4) Zones prescribed by the Department by regulation.

31 (b) While hunting wild waterfowl from a boat that is drifting or being sculled,  
32 a person shall remain at least 250 yards from all offshore stationary blinds or blind  
33 sites or another person hunting wild waterfowl offshore.

34 (c) (1) A person hunting wild waterfowl from a boat that is drifting or being  
35 sculled shall be at least 800 yards from shore including shore emerging at mean low  
36 water except in the nontidal waters of the Potomac River, IN THE WATERS OF THE  
37 SUSQUEHANNA FLATS, in Conococheague Creek, and in the Monocacy River.

1           (2)       IN THE WATERS OF THE SUSQUEHANNA FLATS, A PERSON HUNTING  
2 WILD WATERFOWL FROM A BOAT THAT IS DRIFTING OR BEING SCULLED SHALL BE  
3 AT LEAST 400 YARDS FROM SHORE INCLUDING SHORE EMERGING AT MEAN LOW  
4 WATER.

5       (d)       A nonresident may not hunt wild waterfowl from a boat that is drifting or  
6 being sculled unless accompanied by a Maryland resident.

7 10-606.

8       (a)       A person may hunt wild waterfowl from a boat that is anchored only in:

9           (1)       The nontidal waters of the Potomac River;

10          (2)       The waters of the Susquehanna Flats, Elk River, and that portion of  
11 the Sassafra River in Cecil County located west of 75 degrees 58 minutes 45 seconds;

12          (3)       The waters of Chincoteague Bay, Sinepuxent Bay, Isle of Wight,  
13 Assawoman Bay, and their respective tributaries in Worcester County; or

14          (4)       Zones prescribed by the Department by regulation.

15       (b)       A person may hunt wild waterfowl from a boat that is anchored at a  
16 licensed offshore stationary blind or blind site.

17       (c)       A person hunting wild waterfowl from a boat that is anchored shall remain  
18 250 yards from all offshore stationary blinds or blind sites or another person hunting  
19 wild waterfowl offshore.

20       (d)       (1)       A person hunting wild waterfowl from a boat that is anchored shall  
21 be at least 800 yards from shore including shore emerging at mean low water except  
22 in nontidal waters of the Potomac River, IN THE WATERS OF THE SUSQUEHANNA  
23 FLATS, or unless anchored at a licensed offshore stationary blind or blind site.

24          (2)       IN THE WATERS OF THE SUSQUEHANNA FLATS, A PERSON HUNTING  
25 WILD WATERFOWL FROM A BOAT THAT IS ANCHORED SHALL BE AT LEAST 400 YARDS  
26 FROM SHORE INCLUDING SHORE EMERGING AT MEAN LOW WATER.

27       (e)       Except at a licensed stationary blind or blind site, a nonresident may not  
28 hunt wild waterfowl from a boat that is anchored unless accompanied by a Maryland  
29 resident.

30       SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take  
31 effect October 1, 2003.

