

ONTARIO FEDERATION OF ANGLERS AND HUNTERS

2019



SMALL GAME

MIGRATORY BIRD & WETLANDS
ADVISORY COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT



Who are we?

CHAIR

Maya Basdeo (Zone J)

MEMBERS

Robert Allen (Zone C)
Roy Polsky (Zone D)
Chris Davies (Zone E)
Kerry Coleman (Zone F)
Stephen Huntley (Zone G)
Lauren Tonelli (Staff Liaison)
Keith Munro (Staff Liaison)

Introduction

The OFAH Small Game, Migratory Bird & Wetlands Advisory Committee (SGAC) has had opportunities to engage with other OFAH advisory committees and directors, as well as outside hunting and conservation organizations over issues of shared importance. On behalf of the entire committee, I would like to extend sincere thanks to head office staff Lauren Tonelli, Keith Munro, Mark Ryckman and Matt DeMille for their expertise and genuine dedication to the wide range of issues covered in the SGAC, and to the Federation. -- **Maya Basdeo, Chair, Small Game, Migratory Bird & Wetlands Advisory Committee**

OFAH/Delta Waterfowl Collaboration

In May 2019, the committee welcomed Jim Fisher, senior director of conservation & hunting policy in Canada for Delta Waterfowl, as a guest presenter to the advisory committee. Jim discussed Delta's current conservation work, primarily in prairie Canada. The OFAH continues to collaborate with Delta Waterfowl through avenues such as the Ontario Waterfowl Advisory Committee (OWAC) on issues of mutual benefit.



Wolf and Coyote

In December 2019, a portion of the SGAC meeting was held with the OFAH Big Game Advisory Committee in order to discuss potential changes to current hunting regulations that have been an ongoing source of consternation for those hunting wolf and coyote during big game season. A number of recommendations were jointly agreed upon and put forward by the committees. We are pleased to report that these changes are now reflected in the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act, under Hunting Regulations. As of April 1, 2020, wolf and coyote hunters will be able to continue to use centre-fire rifles, or shotgun shells that are larger than number two shot, and not be impacted by big game seasons.



Fur-Bearers

The SGAC seeks to increase hunting and trapping opportunities for small game in the northern part of the province, particularly red fox, red squirrel, and weasel. OFAH staff continue to engage with the Ontario Fur Managers Federation (OFMF) to discuss trapping of fur-bearers under a small game licence and will be bringing the issue to the MNRF.



Snowshoe Hare

Unnecessary restrictions on hunting opportunities, as well as exploring opportunities for increased hunting, continue to be discussed at the provincial and federal levels. The 2017 change to the closing date of Varying (Snowshoe) Hare season (to March 31st) has resulted in loss of hunting opportunities in Northern Ontario. The OFAH continues to request a later end to the season based on scientific and social values and are working with MNRF towards a resolution, hopefully in 2021.



Sandhill Crane

Federally, the OFAH continues to advocate for a sandhill crane hunt in Ontario via OWAC, the Prime Minister's Office, Environment and Climate Change Canada, and the official opposition.



OFAH Policies

The SGAC completed the first draft of edits to content of the policy document in fall 2019. In concert with staff, we are now in the process of revising the format to align with the purpose of a policy document, and could be extended as a template for use by other advisory committees.

Additionally, the falconry Code of Conduct created by the Ontario Hawking Club was shared with the OFAH Sporting Dogs Advisory Committee via the SGAC, in order to assist with their development of codes of conduct for hunting with hounds.

