

Summary of National Hunting Regulations: *Netherlands*



Updated in July 2016

SITUATION FROM 1 JANUARY 2017

HUNTING AND TRAPPING LEGISLATION/ RESOURCES

Name of main legislation: Act of 16 December 2015, containing rules for the protection of nature (Nature Conservation Act)

Year of publication: 2015 (expected entry into force 1 January 2017)

Supporting legislation: Nature Conservation Decree & Nature Conservation Regulations

Legislation updates: the Nature Conservation Act replaces the existing national nature legislation, including the Flora and Fauna Act that previously regulated hunting.

Hunting legislation (web link): not yet available

Authority in charge of controlling hunting (web link): Police department (www.politie.nl); Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority (www.nvwa.nl); Netherlands Enterprise Agency (www.rvo.nl)

Major inconsistencies or loopholes detected (if yes please describe): none, but it should be noted that a lot of hunting in the Netherlands takes place under derogations.

Derogations (on EU Birds Directive and/or Bern Convention): derogations can be issued to allow the killing of specified bird species (for example certain species of geese) by licensed hunters under strict conditions in accordance with article 9 of the Birds Directive to prevent serious damage to crops or to protect one of the other specified interests.

HUNTING AND TRAPPING: METHODS AND RESTRICTIONS

	Legal methods/restrictions	Notes
Hunting	<p>Hunting is only allowed with a valid hunting licence. Hunting licenses are granted for one year by the chief of the regional police to hunters that have passed the hunting exam and meet certain other requirements.</p> <p>Hunting is subject to a large number of restrictions and conditions that are contained in the Nature Conservation Act, the Nature Conservation Decree and the Nature Conservation Regulations.</p> <p>General restrictions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• All hunting has to take place in accordance with the fauna management plans adopted by fauna management units and approved by the competent provincial authorities.• Recreational hunting is only permitted for a limited number of species during specified periods of the year (see below).	<p>Hunting with birds of prey (Peregrine Falcon and Goshawk) requires a separate falconer's licence issued by the Ministry of Economic Affairs. A license is also required for registered duck decoy cages.</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hunting is only allowed with one of the following means: rifles (that meet the specified requirements), dogs (except dogs able to chase game for a long time), hunting birds (only Peregrine Falcons and Goshawks that have been bred in captivity), registered duck decoy cages; decoy ducks and pigeons (not blinded or maimed); ferrets; hunting bags; hunting screens. • Hunting with rifles is only allowed on hunting grounds that have a minimum size of 40 hectares for each possessor of the hunting right. • Each possessor of the hunting right has to maintain the game species on his hunting grounds at a reasonable level. Feeding of game species is prohibited, except during exceptional weather conditions. • Hunters have to prevent unnecessary suffering of game species resulting from hunting. • Hunters are required to report the number of animals killed, specified for each species, to the fauna management units. <p>Hunting is prohibited:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Before sunrise and after sunset (with the exception of Mallards that may be hunted half an hour before sunrise and half an hour after sunset). • On Sundays, New Year's Day, Easter, Pentecost, Christmas and Ascension day. • On cemeteries. • During certain weather conditions and the moulting season. • Within a radius of 200 meters around places where food or bait is provided to attract wildlife. • With a rifle in urban areas and their immediate vicinity. • From a motorized vehicle, a vessel (except those with a maximum speed of 5 kilometres an hour) or aircraft. • With a rifle inside registered duck decoy cages. 	<p>For hunting under derogations there are additional/specific requirements. All derogations have to meet the requirements contained in article 9 of the Birds Directive.</p>
Trapping	<p>Trapping is not allowed in the Netherlands. Possession of non-selective methods such as snares, nets, traps, cages and limesticks is illegal.</p>	

HUNTING SEASONS AND SPECIES

Open Hunting Season	Legally huntable species	Notes
Mid August-End of January	Mallard	
Mid October-End of December	Pheasant (hen)	
Mid October-End of January	Pheasant (cock)	
Mid October-End of January	Wood Pigeon	

TRAPPING SEASONS AND SPECIES

Open Trapping Season	Legally trapped species	Notes

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N/A		
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TRADE AND PEST SPECIES

Legal trade	Notes
Trade in wild birds is generally prohibited, but there are general derogations for possession, trade and consumption of products of species that have been lawfully killed.	
Legislation on “pest species”	Notes
<p>There is a specific derogation for ‘pest’ species in urban areas, which can be granted to municipalities under certain conditions for specified species. For birds this is only possible in the interest of public health and safety, including air safety.</p> <p>Derogations can also be granted under strict conditions for specified species to prevent serious damage to crops, livestock, forests, fisheries and water; or the protection of flora and fauna.</p>	

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