

# Summary of National Hunting Regulations: Norway



Updated in June 2016

## HUNTING AND TRAPPING LEGISLATION/ RESOURCES

**Name of main legislation:** Act relating to wildlife and wildlife habitats (<https://lovdata.no/dokument/NL/lov/1981-05-29-38?q=Viltloven>)

**Year of publication:** 1981

**Supporting legislation:** Act relating to Biodiversity (Naturmangfoldloven - <https://lovdata.no/dokument/NL/lov/2009-06-19-100>), Act relating to weapons, ammunition etc. (Våpenloven - <https://lovdata.no/dokument/NL/lov/1961-06-09-1?q=v%C3%A5pen>)

**Legislation updates:** no updates, but regular updates of hunting seasons. New proposed hunting seasons for 2017-2022 inclusive are currently under consultation.

### Hunting legislation (web link):

Regulation on hunting and trapping (<https://lovdata.no/dokument/SF/forskrift/2012-03-01-190>) (valid 01.04.2012-31.03.2017)

Regulation on killing of animal species which cause damage or affect the reproduction of other species (<https://lovdata.no/dokument/SF/forskrift/1997-09-01-1000>)

**Authority in charge of controlling hunting (web link):** Norwegian Environment Agency (Miljødirektoratet: <http://www.miljodirektoratet.no/>)

**Major inconsistencies or loopholes detected (if yes please describe):** none

**Derogations (on EU Birds Directive and/or Bern Convention):** Appendix II, Bern Convention: shooting of Whooper Swan at one airport (at least) for air safety purposes. Other species are known to be shot in the interests of air safety. Local authorities may allow shooting of Northern Goshawk, Eurasian Sparrowhawk and Yellowhammer.

## HUNTING AND TRAPPING: METHODS AND RESTRICTIONS

	Legal methods/restrictions	Notes
<b>Hunting</b>	Hunting shall be carried out in a humane way. Shooting permitted both with shotguns and/or rifle. Use of shotguns firing more than two shots is prohibited. Use of spring guns is prohibited. Use of pistols, revolvers, semi-automatic or fully-automatic weapons are not permitted. A ban on the export, import, sale and use of lead shot was enforced in 2005 but was lifted in 2015, although there is still a ban on use of lead shot over wetlands. Use of artificial lights is prohibited.	Hunters must have completed an obligatory course and have paid their annual hunting fees. Hunters must complete bag returns.

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<b>Trapping</b>	Snares	Used to trap <b>Willow Grouse</b> and <b>Rock Ptarmigan</b> (see below)
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## HUNTING SEASONS AND SPECIES

Open Hunting Season	Legally huntable species	Notes
1 <sup>st</sup> Oct. – 30 <sup>th</sup> Nov. inclusive	<b>European Shag</b> in counties of Finnmark, Troms, Nordland and Nord-Trøndelag. Also in the following municipalities in Sør-Trøndelag county: Osen, Roan, Åfjord, Bjugn, Ørland and Rissa.	
1 <sup>st</sup> Oct. – 30 <sup>th</sup> Nov. incl.	<b>Great Cormorant</b> (all ages) throughout the whole country <i>with the exception of</i> the following areas where only young birds with white bellies may be hunted: the counties of Møre og Romsdal and Sør-Trøndelag (except in the municipalities of Osen, Roan, Åfjord, Bjugn, Ørland and Rissa, where Great Cormorants of all ages may be hunted).	
21 <sup>st</sup> Aug. – 23 <sup>rd</sup> Dec. incl.	<b>Great Cormorant</b> at freshwater sites in following counties: Østfold, Akershus, Buskerud, Vestfold, Telemark, Aust-Agder, Vest-Agder and Rogaland.	Proposed alteration of hunting season to cover period 10 <sup>th</sup> Aug. – 23 <sup>rd</sup> Dec. (hunting seasons 2017-2022), with a quota of 2 birds per hunter per day.
10 <sup>th</sup> Aug. – 23 <sup>rd</sup> Dec. incl.	<b>Pink-footed Goose</b> in the whole country, but with the following deviations: (i) The species is fully protected in the county of Finnmark. (ii) The hunting season is 21 <sup>st</sup> Aug. – 23 <sup>rd</sup> Dec. incl. in the county of Troms, as well as in Nordland county south to the municipalities of Rana and Rødøy. (iii) Hunting is free between 10 <sup>th</sup> Sept. – 23 <sup>rd</sup> Dec. incl. below the high water mark in marine areas from the border with Sweden and up to and including Vest-Agder county.	Proposed alteration of hunting season to 1 <sup>st</sup> Sept. – 15 <sup>th</sup> Nov. in the whole country except Finnmark, and between 10 <sup>th</sup> Sept. – 15 <sup>th</sup> Nov. in marine areas from the border with Sweden and up to and including Vest-Agder county.
10 <sup>th</sup> Aug. – 23 <sup>rd</sup> Dec. incl.	<b>Greylag Goose</b> throughout the country with the following exceptions/deviations: (i) In Finnmark hunting is restricted on the coast to within a predefined area. (ii) Hunting is permitted in Troms and Nordland counties between 15 <sup>th</sup> Aug. – 23 <sup>rd</sup> Dec. incl. south to the municipalities of Rana and Rødøy. (iii) Hunting is unrestricted between 10 <sup>th</sup> Sept. – 23 <sup>rd</sup> Dec. incl. in marine areas under paragraph 32 of the Act Relating to Wildlife and Wildlife Habitats from the border with Sweden and up to and including Vest-Agder county.	Proposed that the Office of the County Governor (Fylkesmannen) can open for hunting up to 15 days earlier than the proposed start date, provided that there is local goose management plan for the area, with effect hunting seasons 2017-2022. Currently Fylkesmannen can open for a start date 10 days earlier than normal.

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21 <sup>st</sup> Aug. – 23 <sup>rd</sup> Dec. incl.	<b>Eurasian Wigeon, Eurasian Teal and Mallard</b> in the whole country with the exception of free hunting between 10 <sup>th</sup> Sept. and 23 <sup>rd</sup> Dec. incl. below the high water mark in marine areas from the border with Sweden and up to and including Vest-Agder county.	
10 <sup>th</sup> Sep. – 23 <sup>rd</sup> Dec. incl.	<b>Tufted Duck, Long-tailed Duck, Common Goldeneye, Red-breasted Merganser and Goosander</b> in the whole country.	Proposal to remove <b>Long-tailed Duck</b> from the list of quarry species with effect seasons from 2017.
10 <sup>th</sup> Sept. – 23 <sup>rd</sup> Dec. incl.	<b>Common Scoter</b> in the counties of Østfold, Akershus, Oslo, Vestfold, Buskerud, Telemark, Aust-Agder and Vest-Agder.	Proposal with effect hunting seasons 2017-2022 to allow hunting in Østfold county only.
1 <sup>st</sup> Oct. – 30 <sup>th</sup> Nov. incl.	<b>Common Eider</b> in the counties of Østfold, Vestfold, Buskerud, Telemark, Aust-Agder and Vest-Agder.	Proposed alterations: <u>Alternative 1</u> . Proposal with effect hunting seasons 2017-2022 to remove Vest-Agder from the list of counties where the species is legal quarry. <u>Alternative 2</u> . A daily quota of maximum three males and one female, and where hunting is halted as soon as one female is killed.
10 <sup>th</sup> Sept. – 23 <sup>rd</sup> Dec. incl.	<b>Hazel Grouse, Black Grouse and Western Capercaillie</b> in the whole country.	
10 <sup>th</sup> Sept. – 28 <sup>th</sup> /29 <sup>th</sup> Feb. incl.	<b>Willow Grouse and Rock Ptarmigan</b> in the whole country but with the following exception: in the counties of Finnmark and Troms, as well as in the following municipalities in Nordland - Narvik, Ballangen and Evenes, as well as parts of Tysfjord municipality north of Tysfjorden/Hellemofjorden, where the season is 10 <sup>th</sup> Sept. – 15 <sup>th</sup> March incl..	Proposal (with effect hunting season 2017-2022) to change hunting season in the whole country to 10 <sup>th</sup> Sept. – 23 <sup>rd</sup> Dec. incl.
21 <sup>st</sup> Au. – 31 <sup>st</sup> Oct	<b>Eurasian Golden Plover</b> in the whole country except for Rogaland where the species is fully protected.	
21 <sup>st</sup> Aug. – 31 <sup>st</sup> Oct. incl.	<b>Common Snipe</b> in the whole country.	
10 <sup>th</sup> Sept. – 23 <sup>rd</sup> Dec. incl.	<b>Eurasian Woodcock</b> in the whole country.	
21 <sup>st</sup> Aug. – 28 <sup>th</sup> /29 <sup>th</sup> Feb. incl.	<b>European Herring Gull and Great Black-backed Gull</b> in the whole country with the exception of free hunting between 10 <sup>th</sup> Sept. – 28 <sup>th</sup> /29 <sup>th</sup> February incl. below the high water mark in marine areas from the border with Sweden and up to and including Vest-Agder county.	Proposal with effect hunting seasons 2017-2022 to ban hunting of these two species.
21 <sup>st</sup> Aug. – 23 <sup>rd</sup> Dec. incl.	<b>Common Woodpigeon</b> in the whole country except for the counties of Troms and Finnmark the species is fully protected.	

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10 <sup>th</sup> Aug. – 23 <sup>rd</sup> Dec. incl.	<b>Fieldfare</b> and <b>Redwing</b> in the whole country.	<b>Blackbird</b> and <b>Song Thrush</b> are proposed as new quarry species with effect from 2017 (currently fully protected)
10 <sup>th</sup> Aug. – 28 <sup>th</sup> /29 <sup>th</sup> Feb. incl.	<b>Eurasian Jay</b> in the whole country except the counties of Nordland, Troms and Finnmark where the species is fully protected.	
10 <sup>th</sup> Aug. – 28 <sup>th</sup> /29 <sup>th</sup> Feb. incl.	<b>Black-billed Magpie</b> in the whole country.	
15 <sup>th</sup> July – 31 <sup>st</sup> March incl.	<b>Hooded Crow</b> (subspecies of Carrion Crow) in the whole country.	
10 <sup>th</sup> Aug. – 28 <sup>th</sup> /29 <sup>th</sup> Feb. incl.	<b>Common Raven</b> in the whole country, except for the counties of Troms and Finnmark where the hunting season is 10 <sup>th</sup> Aug. – 15 <sup>th</sup> March incl.	
10 <sup>th</sup> Aug. – 23 <sup>rd</sup> Dec. incl.	<b>Canada Goose</b> in the whole country except for in the county of Troms, as well as in Nordland county south to the municipalities of Rana and Rødøy where the hunting season is 21 <sup>st</sup> Aug. – 23 <sup>rd</sup> Dec. incl., and in marine areas from the border with Sweden and up to and including Vest-Agder county where the hunting season is 10 <sup>th</sup> Sept. – 23 <sup>rd</sup> Dec. incl.	Introduced species
10 <sup>th</sup> Aug. – 23 <sup>rd</sup> Dec. incl.	<b>Bar-headed Goose</b> in the whole country except for marine areas from the border with Sweden and up to and including Vest-Agder county where the hunting season is 10 <sup>th</sup> Sept. – 23 <sup>rd</sup> Dec. incl.	Introduced species
21 <sup>st</sup> Aug. – 23 <sup>rd</sup> Dec. incl.	<b>Muscovy Duck, Mandarin Duck, and Ruddy Duck</b> (all are introduced species) in the whole country.	
1 <sup>st</sup> – 15 <sup>th</sup> Oct. incl.	<b>Common Pheasant</b> in the whole country.	Introduced species
Up to and incl. 14 <sup>th</sup> June	Landowners or their agents may collect eggs and down (i.e. soft feathers) from <b>European Herring Gull, Great Black-backed Gull, and Common Goldeneye</b> in the counties of Nordland, Troms and Finnmark.	
Up to and incl. 20 <sup>th</sup> May	Landowners or their agents may collect eggs and down (i.e. soft feathers) from <b>European Herring Gull, Great Black-backed Gull, and Common Goldeneye</b> in the counties of Sør-Trøndelag and Nord-Trøndelag	
Up to and incl. 20 <sup>th</sup> May	Landowners or their agents may collect eggs and down (i.e. soft feathers) from <b>European Herring Gull, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Great Black-backed Gull, and Common Goldeneye</b> in the rest of the country (i.e. excluding Nordland, Troms, Finnmark, Sør-Trøndelag and Nord-Trøndelag)	

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Up to and incl. 1 <sup>st</sup> June	Landowners or their agents may collect eggs and down (i.e. soft feathers) from <b>Common Eider</b> in formerly protected islands.	Islands where there has been a long tradition of Eider management to harvest their down (for making quilts) or eggs (for consumption) were formerly protected, and this former protection status is specifically mentioned in the hunting regulation text. The protection was to safeguard both the birds themselves as well as the rights of the landowners. Formal protection was lifted in 1981, but many of these areas are also part of nature reserves.
Up to and incl. 15 <sup>th</sup> April	Landowners or their agents may collect eggs and down (i.e. soft feathers) from <b>Greylag Goose</b> in the whole country. The Office of the County Governor (Fylkesmannen) may grant permission to collect eggs after 15 <sup>th</sup> April, provided that this is a specified measure in an approved management plan for geese in that same area.	
Up to and incl. 1 <sup>st</sup> July	Landowners or their agents may collect eggs and down (i.e. soft feathers) from <b>Bar-headed Goose</b> and <b>Canada Goose</b> in the whole country.	Introduced species
Up to and incl. 1 <sup>st</sup> July	Landowners or their agents may collect eggs and down (i.e. soft feathers) from <b>Snow Goose</b> in the counties of Vest-Agder, Aust-Agder, Telemark, Buskerud, Vestfold, Oslo og Akershus, Østfold, Oppland and Hedmark.	Introduced species

## TRAPPING SEASONS AND SPECIES

Open Trapping Season	Legally trapped species	Notes
1 <sup>st</sup> Nov. – 28 <sup>th</sup> /29 <sup>th</sup> Feb. incl.	<b>Willow Grouse</b> and <b>Rock Ptarmigan</b> may be caught using snares in 10 municipalities in county Oppland, 6 in Telemark, 3 in Aust-Agder, 4 in Vest-Agder, 5 in Rogaland, 5 in Hordaland, 3 in Møre og Romsdal, 5 in Sør-Trøndelag, 9 in Nord-Trøndelag, 12 in Nordland, 21 in Troms, and all municipalities in Finnmark county except Vardø.	Proposed changes with effect hunting seasons 2017-2022 in use of snares in those municipalities where it is allowed be restricted to period 1 <sup>st</sup> Nov. – 23 <sup>rd</sup> Dec. incl., except in municipalities in Nordland north of Tysfjord and in Troms and Finnmark, where the period snares may be used is proposed as 1 <sup>st</sup> Nov. – 28 <sup>th</sup> /29 <sup>th</sup> Feb. incl.

## TRADE AND PEST SPECIES

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Legal trade	Notes
No legal trade in wild birds, but some import for hunting purposes. Stuffed birds may be sold, but these must first be registered with the authorities before stuffing.	
Legislation on “pest species”	Notes
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The following species can be killed by the property owner without applying for a special license all-year round, where such species are proven to cause considerable damage to property: <b>Black-headed Gull, Common Gull, European Herring Gull, Great Black-backed Gull, Feral Pigeon, Common Woodpigeon, Blackbird, Fieldfare, Song Thrush, Redwing, Common Magpie, Hooded Crow, Common Raven, and House Sparrow.</b></li> <li>2. Local municipal authorities can issue licenses all-year round for the following species if they are found to cause damage: <b>Great Cormorant, European Shag, Grey Heron, Greylag Goose, Canada Goose, Common Eider, Red-breasted Merganser, Goosander, Eurasian Oystercatcher, Black-legged Kittiwake, Eurasian Green Woodpecker, Black Woodpecker, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Great Tit, Eurasian Jackdaw, Rook, Common Starling, Eurasian Tree Sparrow, Eurasian Chaffinch, Brambling, European Greenfinch, Eurasian Bullfinch, and Yellowhammer</b> <i>Emberiza citronella</i>.</li> <li>3. The Office of the County Governor can issue licenses all-year round for the following species if they are found to cause damage: <b>Mute Swan, Pink-footed Goose, Northern Goshawk, Eurasian Sparrowhawk, Common Tern, and Arctic Tern.</b> In addition licenses may be issued in the counties of Aust-Agder, Telemark, Buskerud, Vestfold, Oslo og Akershus, Østfold, Oppland and Hedmark for <b>Bar-headed Goose, Snow Goose and Barnacle Goose.</b></li> <li>4. In special cases the Norwegian Environment Agency may issue licenses all-year round to kill any species causing damage.</li> </ol>	

**NGO:** Norwegian Ornithological Society / BirdLife Norway

**Contact Person:** Paul Shimmings (paul@birdlife.no)

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**ANNEX: Regulation on spring hunting of ducks from 2013 to 2022 inclusive, Kautokeino municipality, Finnmark**

*Forskrift om kvoteregulert vårjakt på ender fra og med år 2013 til og med år 2022, Kautokeino kommune, Finnmark*

<https://lovdata.no/dokument/MV/forskrift/2013-06-03-573>

**§ 1. Quota regulated spring hunting of ducks**

Duck hunting is permitted until and including 2022. Hunting licenses can be issued to those who have paid the annual hunting fee, and who have lived in Kautokeino municipality during the past five years and are still currently resident in the municipality. The license is personal, and is valid for one season.

**§ 2. Scope and extent of the regulation**

Spring hunting is restricted to the following waterbodies and watercourses i Kautokeino municipality:

- 1) Calbmejavri, Luovosjavri, Luovosluoppal, Aidejavri and Lahppojavri
  - Kautokeinoelva River from the bridge at Økseidet to the Suophatjohka river mouth, from Labbesuolo north of Kautokeino church to Kautokeinoelva Lahppojohka river mouth (except for Mieronjavvi), from Habatguoika to Mazejohka river mouth and from Cievramielli in lower Maze to Heastanjarga in Latnetjavri.
- 2) Sihccasaiva, Roggeluoppal near Galaniito and Raggeluoppa.

**§ 3. Limitations on quarry species, sex and hunting quota**

Only hunting of males of Mallard, Tufted Duck and Red-breasted Merganser is permitted. Only 150 ducks may be killed in one season, and the number of Tufted Ducks killed shall not exceed 100 individuals. Should the population status for these species change substantially, the Norwegian Environment Agency can make changes to the size of the quota and which species may be hunted.

**§ 4. Hunting season and issuing of hunting licenses**

The hunting season is limited to a 10-day period between 15th May and 10th June. The Finnmark Estate Agency (Finnmarkseiendommen/Finnmårkkuopmodat), in co-operation with Kautokeino municipality council, determine the hunting season which is announced before the start of the season. Kautokeino municipality council can decide upon daily regulations.

**§ 5. The hunter's duty**

Hunters shall complete a bag report on a standard form prepared by The Finnmark Estate Agency (Finnmarkseiendommen/Finnmårkkuopmodat) in co-operation with Kautokeino municipality council. Shot birds must be entered as soon as possible in the bag report. Both the bag report, proof of payment of the annual hunting fee, and the hunting license shall be carried at all times during hunting, and shall be presented to wardens and police upon request.

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Hunting must only be undertaken in accordance with national legislation for hunting of small game. § 21 of the “Act relating to wildlife and wildlife habitats” states that hunting from motorised transport including motorboats is forbidden.

#### **§ 6. Reporting and evaluation**

The Finnmark Estate Agency (Finnmarkseiendommen/Finnmårkkuopmodat), in co-operation with Kautokeino municipality council, shall produce a report for the County Governor’s Office (Fylkesmannen i Finnmark), the County Administrator (Finnmark fylkeskommune) and the Norwegian Environment Agency at the end of each season, and by 1st July at latest. The report shall include the following as a minimum requirement:

1. number of hunters
2. number of ducks killed per species

In addition, the report for the first year, and subsequent reports at five year intervals thereafter, shall include an explanation as to how the spring hunting contributes to the Sami culture.

#### **§ 7. Penalties**

Breach of these regulations will be penalised in accordance to § 56 of the Act relating to wildlife and wildlife habitats.

#### **§ 8. Implementation**

This regulation is effective immediately. At the same time the regulation on spring hunting of ducks from 2011 to 2012 in Kautokeino municipality, Finnmark is hence repealed.