

Summary of National Hunting Regulations: *Latvia*



Updated in June 2016

HUNTING AND TRAPPING LEGISLATION/ RESOURCES

Name of main legislation: Hunting Law, Published 08.07.2003, last edit – 02.12.2015. - <http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=77455>

English (not the latest version, but bird-related parts haven't changed) - http://www.vvc.gov.lv/export/sites/default/docs/LRTA/Likumi/Hunting_Law.doc

Year of publication: 2003

Supporting legislation:

Hunting regulations Nr.421 (22.07.2014): <http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=267976>

English – not the last version: http://www.vvc.gov.lv/export/sites/default/docs/LRTA/MK_Noteikumi/Cab_Reg_No_760_-_Hunting_Regulations.doc

Cab. Reg. No. 1165 - Procedures for Issuing Permits for Acquiring Individuals of Non-Game Species, for Introducing Wild Species Uncharacteristic to the Nature of Latvia (Introduction), and Restoring Populations of Species in the Nature (Re-Introduction) (with amendments to 05.03.2013.) - <http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=223483>

English - http://www.vvc.gov.lv/export/sites/default/docs/LRTA/MK_Noteikumi/Cab_Reg_No_1165_-_Issuing_Permits_for_Acquiring_Non-Game_Animals.pdf

Cab. reg.Nr.1482 (defines penalties for illegal taking of game species): <http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=263242>

Cab.reg. 396., List of protected and protected game species (14.11.2000.) - <http://likumi.lv/doc.php?id=12821>

Legislation updates: Update of hunting regulations (Nr. 421) in preparation in 2016 for removal of Long-tailed duck (*Clangula hyemalis*) and Velvet Scoter (*Melanitta fusca*) from the hunted species list - <http://tap.mk.gov.lv/lv/mk/tap/?pid=40382538>

Authority in charge of controlling hunting (web link): State Forest Service – www.vmd.gov.lv (manages the process), Nature Conservation Agency - www.daba.gov.lv (involved in control process, manages non-hunttable species).

Major inconsistencies or loopholes detected (if yes please describe): No pre-defined penalties for taking of non-game species.

Derogations (on EU Birds Directive and/or Bern Convention): Special permits for Great Cormorant are issued under EU Birds Directive derogation for fish farms in limited quantities (<100 individuals shot annually).

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HUNTING AND TRAPPING: METHODS AND RESTRICTIONS

	Legal methods/restrictions	Notes
Hunting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Licensed hunting is permitted in certain seasons and for certain species (see below). - Guns – use of shotguns and rifles is permitted, with 2+1 cartridge limit. Use of high-power air rifles is legal for Hooded Crow (Carrion crow subspecies), Black-billed Magpie, Common Woodpigeon and domestic pigeon. Methods: Live (non-crippled) and plastic decoys are legal, use of electronic calling devices or motorized decoys is illegal, shooting from a moving motorized vehicle or boat is illegal. - Restrictions include: Hunting is restricted in territories with status of city or town and cemeteries, protected areas and areas where municipality has restricted it. Use of lead-free ammunition is required in protected wetland areas where hunting is allowed. It is illegal to shoot a bird on the water. 	Rifles are seldom used for goose hunting.
Trapping	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Trapping of Hooded Crow (Carrion crow subspecies) and Black-billed Magpie is legal if selective traps are used. For other species special permit is required, seasons are same as for weapons. Use of bait is legal (i.e. food or live decoy). - Use of non-selective methods such as glue, killing traps, poison, non-selective nets and calling devices is illegal. 	

HUNTING SEASONS AND SPECIES

Open Hunting Season	Legally huntable species	Notes
Second Saturday of August. till 15.09. – Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays. 15.09.-30.11. – every day.	Common Coot, Common Teal, Gadwall, Northern Shoveler, Mallard, Garganey, Eurasian Wigeon, Northern Pintail, Common Pochard, Tufted Duck, Greater Scaup, Velvet Scoter, Common Scoter, Long-tailed Duck, Common Goldeneye	
15.09. - 30.11.	Bean Goose, Greater White-fronted Goose, Canada Goose, Greylag Goose	
1.09. - 31.12.	Western Capercaillie, Black grouse, Capercaillie X Black Grouse	licensed, no permits issued in recent years
1.09. - 31.01.	Hazel Grouse	
1.08. - 31.03.	Common Pheasant (<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>)	released birds, no native population
1.08. - 15.11.	Common Woodpigeon (<i>Columba palumbus</i>)	
1.08. - 31.12.	Domestic Pigeon	
1.08. - 15.11.	Eurasian Woodcock (<i>Scolopax rusticola</i>)	

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15.06. - 30.04.	Hooded crow (Carrion Crow subspecies), Black-billed magpie	
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TRAPPING SEASONS AND SPECIES

Open Trapping Season	Legally trapped species	Notes
15.06. - 30.04.	Hooded crow (Carrion Crow subspecies), Black-billed magpie	Trapped in small numbers.
Same as hunting	Other huntable species, with special permit, individually issued by State Forest Service.	

TRADE AND PEST SPECIES

Legal trade	Notes
Specific permit is required for farming of game and non-game species. Trade of game meat is legal.	Several farms are raising and releasing pheasants. Also mallards are farmed but not in a large scale.
Legislation on "pest species"	Notes
Note in Hunting law, similar to Bird Directive 9.a, upper mentioned regulations.	Special permits for Great Cormorant are issued for fish farms in limited quantities (<100 individuals shot annually).

NGO: Latvian Ornithological Society

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