

Timing of Middle Zone Youth Waterfowl Season

Traditionally, Missouri has offered the youth waterfowl days the weekend before the regular waterfowl season in each zone. In recent years, a growing number of hunters have expressed frustration that the youth deer, quail, and waterfowl seasons all fall on the same weekend in the Middle Zone. To assess how widespread this concern was among waterfowl hunters, we included a question in the 2010 Waterfowl Hunter Opinion survey to find out if hunters would prefer the youth season waterfowl season to open the weekend before the Middle Zone opener even if it conflicts with Deer Youth Season, or hold the youth waterfowl season two weekends before the Middle Zone duck opener to avoid conflicting with Deer Youth Season. Only 18% indicated they prefer holding the Youth Waterfowl Season the same weekend as the Deer Youth Season (Figure 1).

Figure 1. Middle Zone hunter preferences about timing of Middle Zone youth hunting days.

