

**Regulation 4VAC15-260.  
Game: Waterfowl and Waterfowl Blinds.**

**Section 4VAC15-260-75.  
Blinds adjacent to the Ware Creek Wildlife Management Area.  
(Proposed new section.)**

**SUMMARY:**

The proposal is to: (i) prohibit the licensing of non-riparian stationary waterfowl blinds adjacent to the Ware Creek Wildlife Management Area in New Kent County; and (ii) enable the department to designate the locations where and the times when waterfowl hunting will be allowed within 500 yards of the wildlife management area.

**RECOMMENDED LANGUAGE OF AMENDMENT:**

**4VAC15-260-75. Game: Waterfowl and Waterfowl Blinds. Blinds adjacent to the Ware Creek Wildlife Management Area.**

Except for blinds built or maintained by the department, no stationary waterfowl blinds shall be licensed on the public waters of Philbates and Ware Creeks, or on the York River within 1000 yards of the Ware Creek Wildlife Management Area in New Kent County; waterfowl hunting within 500 yards of the Wildlife Management Area property will be permitted only at locations and during times designated by the department. However, this section shall not abridge the privileges prescribed for landowners, and their lessees and permittees, in §29.1-344 and §29.1-347 of the Code of Virginia.

**RATIONALE:**

The department recently purchased property along the York River in New Kent County and established a new wildlife management area. The proposed regulation section will enable the department to establish a managed waterfowl hunting program on the property. Without such a regulation section, non-riparian blinds could be licensed in the public waters around the property and would prevent float blind hunting in the public waters on and adjacent to the area. Further, considerable cost and staff time would be required for the department to build and annually maintain numerous (at least 16) stationary waterfowl blinds on the property.

This regulation section will allow the department to specify when the wildlife management area and the public waters around the property can be hunted. This regulation section is similar to sections that exist for other state wildlife management areas.