

restricts or reduces the number of days normally allowed to hunt, possess, sell, purchase, ship, transport, carry, or export any game bird or mammal because of an emergency situation, the Department may extend the open season to provide a comparable number of days in any given season.

(c) The Department shall establish by regulation the maximum open season for hunting crows which is permissible under federal law, and shall include in its regulations [such] ANY provisions as are permitted under federal law for control of crows at any time they are found to be committing or about to commit depredation upon ornamental or shade trees, agricultural crops, livestock or wildlife, or when concentrated in [such] ANY numbers and manner as to constitute a health hazard or other nuisance.

10-406.

(b) (2) A person may possess the meat of muskrat or otter no more than [ten] 10 days after the close of open season for these mammals in order to dispose of the meat for food. However, a person may apply for a permit to store the meat during the closed season if the meat was hunted lawfully.

(4) A person may hunt or trap and possess the pelt or meat of raccoon or opossum during those periods and under the restrictions, including bag limits, the Department may establish by [rule or] regulation.

10-407.

(a) Before establishing the open season for ducks, except sea ducks, geese, and swan as required by subsection (b) of this section, the Department shall conduct public hearings on the proposed season, at least [one] 1 of which shall be held, on an alternating basis, in Wicomico, Somerset, Worcester or Dorchester counties.

10-408.

The Department shall prescribe by [rule or] regulation the means or weapons for hunting designated wildlife pursuant to the privileges granted by a hunter's license. The Department shall set forth any restrictions relating to weapons used to hunt designated [wildlife] WILDLIFE, including [but not limited to] the amount and size of ammunition for designated game birds or mammals. The Department shall make the [rules and] regulations available for distribution with each hunting license purchased. This section does not authorize the Department to restrict the use of firearms except in the exercise of the privileges of a hunting license.

10-408.1.

(b) This section does not apply to:

(3) Land which qualifies for agricultural assessments, as provided under § 8-209 of the Tax - Property [Article] ARTICLE, and timberland and lands used for reforestation;

10-409.