



Ottawa, Canada K1A 0H3

DEC 14 2018

Mr. Joshua Goins
Founder
Flyway Federation of Louisiana
josh.goins@flywayfederationlouisiana.com

Dear Mr. Goins:

Thank you for your email message of October 14, 2018, and attachments, concerning the use of baiting fields for migratory game bird hunting. I regret the delay in responding.

In Canada, baiting is an activity that is closely regulated under the *Migratory Birds Regulations* to ensure the conservation and management of migratory game birds. Depositing bait and intentional flooding of crop fields during the hunting season is an uncommon practice in this country and is restricted to a limited number of individuals and hunting clubs. Nevertheless, baiting concentrates a large number of birds in a specific area and, consequently, it has the potential to create a situation of unequal access to migratory birds among Canadian hunters.

A proposed baiting policy based on the principle of equal opportunity and sharing of the resources for all migratory game bird hunters in Canada has been developed. Public consultations were held in winter 2017. Environment and Climate Change Canada is still considering feedback on these proposals and has not made any final decisions. More targeted research would certainly enhance understanding of the impact intentional flooding of crop fields or depositing of bait has on waterfowl species during the fall migration and their distribution across flyways.

I appreciate your bringing your comments to my attention, and for your interest in migratory bird conservation in Canada. Please accept my best regards.

Sincerely,

The Honourable Catherine McKenna, P.C., M.P.