

The rules that eventually will be promulgated for the 2003–04 hunting season are authorized under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) of July 3, 1918 (40 Stat. 755; 16 U.S.C. 703 *et seq.*), as amended. The MBTA authorizes and directs the Secretary of the Interior, having due regard for the

zones of temperature and for the distribution, abundance, economic value, breeding habits, and times and lines of flight of migratory game birds, to determine when, to what extent, and by what means such birds or any part, nest, or egg thereof may be taken, hunted, captured, killed, possessed,

sold, purchased, shipped, carried, exported, or transported.

Dated: July 30, 2003.

**Craig Manson,**

*Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks.*

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