



June 5, 2008

Mr. Fred Johnston
Sr. Fish & Wildlife Technical Specialist
Ministry of Natural Resources
Aylmer District
Chatham Area Office
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870 Richmond Street
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Dear Mr. Johnston

Over the past season we have fielded a number of questions concerning the regulations governing B Zone and as there appeared to be a number of similar questions we held a special meeting to address these concerns. As you were one of the key developers of these regulations we would like to ask for your assistance in clarifying some of the more serious ones.

The questions that seem to need clarification are as follows:

1. If a person erects a blind in B Zone who has rights to hunt from it?
 - Is the blind considered public access? (Can anyone use it?)

Answer: Section 117 of O. Reg 665/98 provides the answer

Section 117. (1) A person authorized by the Minister may issue a licence or permit to erect and use a waterfowl blind in the area described in paragraph 2 of Schedule 3 and in paragraph 2 of Schedule 4. O. Reg. 665/98, s. 117 (1).

(2) A person who is not the holder of a licence or permit referred to in subsection (1) shall not erect a blind in the area. O. Reg. 665/98, s. 117 (2).

In other words the blind needs a licence before it can be erected; once it is erected it can be used by anyone who has a licence as required by section 109 (see below). One would hope that hunters are **courteous** and would not use the blind when it was erected by someone else.

Section 109. (1) The holder of a small game licence may hunt the following wildlife in the provincial parks or designated Crown land described if the person obtains a licence or a permit to hunt in the provincial park or on the designated Crown land:

2. Migratory game birds on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays during the open season for migratory birds in the area described in Schedule 3.

Schedule 3 describes the Rondeau waterfowl unit.

2. What is the minimum distance between two blinds?
 - Does this distance differ from erected blinds to layout boats / boat blinds?

- Can you make them move if they are too close?

Answer: There are no regulations setting out the separation distance. This is controlled by your group when you issue the permit to erect a blind in the B Zone. You tell the person where he can erect his blind.

3. If a person purchases an erect permit must he erect a blind? And if so, is there a deadline to erect the blind?

Answer: There is nothing that says if he purchases a blind licence for the B Zone he has to erect a blind. One assumes if you spend the money you would erect the blind. The blind has to be removed before the end of the waterfowl season.

4. If a group of three wishes to party hunt and each individual buys an erect permit must they erect a blind for each or can they just erect a 4 x 4 post with their erect tags on it?

Answer: If 3 permits are purchased then 3 blinds can be erected. The permit does not control the number of people in the blind for B Zone. It would not be necessary for 3 blind erection permits to be issued if 3 people want to hunt from one blind. Each person in the blind would require a B Zone permit. If the 3 want to hunt from 3 layout boats then 3 blind permits would be required and you control where the posts are placed.

It is our hope that we will be able to handout a FAQ brochure with the B Zone permits this year to help make our membership and others who utilize this resource more knowledgeable in these areas.

Thank you for your time and any answers you may provide would be greatly appreciated. If you have any concerns or questions feel free to contact me at 1-519-420-9102 or email me at Grumpybear_1962@yahoo.ca

Yours,

Rick Turner
President
Rondeau Bay Waterfowl Association