

4-6. Summary of the Wildlife Protection and Hunting Management Law

I. General provisions

1. Purpose

The purpose of this law is to protect wildlife and rationalize hunting by:

1. implementing projects to protect wildlife;
2. preventing and controlling damage caused by wildlife to ecosystems, agriculture, forestry, fisheries and other human activities;
3. preventing hazards caused by the use of hunting equipment.

These contribute to conservation of biodiversity, and development of the agriculture, forestry, fishery and other human activities. (Article 1)

2. Definitions

In this law, the term “wildlife” is defined as wild animals that are classified as either birds or mammals.

(Article 2)

II. Wildlife protection project plans

1. The national government shall establish the Basic Guidelines for the Implementation of Wildlife Management Project.
2. The prefectures shall establish plans to promote Wildlife Protection Projects according to the basic guideline.
3. Prefectures may establish Specified Wildlife Management Plans to control local populations of specific wildlife species, such as deer and wild boar, which have been rapidly increasing their population, or bear in specific regions of western Japan, which have small populations.

(Articles 3 through 7)

III. Regulations on the capture of wildlife

1. With the following exceptions, the capture or collection of wildlife or bird eggs is prohibited.
 - (1) If a person has permission from the Minister of the Environment or a prefectural

governor for the special purpose.

- (2) If a hunter with hunting license captures game animals according to the hunting rules and regulations.
 - (3) If a person captures moles or mice for preventing damage to agriculture and forestry.
2. The Minister of the Environment or a prefectural governor may establish hunting rules and regulations to protect wildlife, and may designate the Designated Way of Hunting Prohibited Area in which using specified hunting methods causing serious adverse effects on wildlife is prohibited.
 3. In principle, a person who has captured birds and mammals must not leave the carcass scraps of them in the place in which he or she has captured them.

(Articles 8 through 18)

IV. Restrictions on the rearing and selling of wildlife

1. A person who wishes to raise wild birds and mammals must complete registration procedures at the prefecture.
2. Without the permission of the prefectural governor, selling Copper Pheasant which would cause serious adverse effects on its population is prohibited.
3. Unless the governmental agency proves that the capture of birds and mammals has been done legally, the export of them is prohibited.
4. Unless foreign government agencies prove that the capture of birds and mammals has been done legally, the import of them is prohibited.
5. Raising, transferring, receiving, or selling birds and mammals that have been captured or imported illegally are prohibited.

(Articles 19 through 27)

V. Wildlife protection areas

1. If deemed necessary for protecting wildlife, after considering the type of wildlife and its current status, National Wildlife Protection Areas are designated by the Minister of the Environment, and prefectural Wildlife Protection Areas are designated by the governor of the prefecture.
2. Where more strict regulation is needed, the Minister of the Environment or a prefectural governor may designate, within the wildlife protection areas, certain areas as special protection areas in which such activities as constructing structures, reclamation and felling trees require permission of the Minister of the Environment or a prefectural governor.
3. If deemed necessary for protecting wildlife, the Minister of the Environment or prefectural governor may implement conservation programs in Wildlife Protection

Areas.

(Articles 28 through 33)

VI. Temporary game preserve areas

If the game has drastically decreased and a prefectural governor deems necessary to increase the game, a prefectural governor may designate an area as a temporary game preserve area.

(Article 34)

VII. Hazard prevention

1. If there is an area in which the prefectural governor deems necessary to prohibit or restrict hunting with guns or other equipment for hunting in order to prevent from hazards, he or she may designate a Certain Hunting Equipment Prohibited Area.
2. Dangerous hunting methods, such as using explosives, dangerous drugs or poisons, are prohibited for the capture of wildlife, without permission from the Minister of the Environment.
3. Hunting with guns is prohibited before sunrise and after sunset.
4. Hunting with guns is prohibited in communities where there are housing concentrations, recreation grounds, stations and other places where many people gather. It is also forbidden to hunt while pointing a gun in a direction in which a bullet could potentially reach livestock, buildings, trains, cars, boats, ships and other vehicles.

(Articles 35 through 38)

VIII. Hunting licenses

1. A person wishing to hunt must obtain a hunting license.
2. Hunting licenses are divided into the following categories: license for nets, license for trap, first grade game shooting license, and second grade game shooting license.
3. A person wishing to hunt using legal hunting with nets must obtain a license for nets.
4. A person wishing to hunt using legal hunting with traps or snares must obtain a license for traps.
5. A person wishing to hunt through hunting methods employing bullet-loaded guns must obtain a first grade game shooting license.
6. A person wishing to hunt through hunting methods employing air guns must obtain a second grade game shooting license.
7. Hunting licenses are granted to a person who has passed the hunting license

examination overseen by prefectural governors.

8. Hunting licenses are valid until September 14 of the year that is three years after the day a person has taken the relevant hunting license examination.

(Articles 39 through 54)

IX. Hunter registration

1. A person wishing to hunt must register with the governor of the prefecture in which he or she wishes to hunt and pay a hunting tax.
2. Hunter registration is valid from October 15 of the year until April 15 of the following year. In Hokkaido, however, it is valid from September 15 of the year until April 15 of the following year. The hunting season is, in principle, from November 15 to February 15 of the following year. In Hokkaido, however, it is from October 1 to January 31 of the following year.
3. Hunter registration is valid only for the license class and the location for which a person is registered.

(Articles 55 through 67)

X. Game areas

1. A person who, in order to maintain viable populations of game animals and ensure safe hunting, wishes to release game animals, limit hunter numbers, or otherwise manage hunting activities in specific areas, must establish sets of rules and obtain permission from the prefectural governor for the management of hunting.
2. Hunting in a hunting area is prohibited unless approval of the party that established such hunting area is obtained.

(Articles 68 through 74)

XI. Miscellaneous provisions

1. The Minister of the Environment or a prefectural governor can, to the extent necessary for the enforcement of this law, request necessary reports from persons who have permission to capture wildlife. In addition, they each may order personnel under their respective authority to enter land or other places as necessary in wildlife protection areas, or to perform surveys or tests.
2. Personnel involved in enforcing the protection of wildlife or the rationalization of hunting may be authorized to exercise the necessary authority. In addition, wildlife protection staff shall be assigned to the prefectures.

3. When populations of wildlife have decreased drastically or other situations in which the Minister of the Environment deems the protection of wildlife a necessity, he or she may issue necessary directives to prefectural governors.
4. The stipulations in this law do not apply in cases involving species such as brown rat, black rat and house mouse that pose a serious threat to ensuring public health, or in cases of species protected and managed by other laws or regulations.

(Article 75 through Article 82)

XII. Necessary stipulations shall be established regarding penalties

(Articles 83 through 89)