



**Media Release March 5 2009  
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### **Animal Rights Get It Wrong on Ducks**

The International Coalition for Women in Shooting and Hunting (WiSH) have challenged claims by animal rights lobbyists that duck numbers are in decline.

“According to the recently launched *State of Australia's Birds 2008*, there have been long-term increases in Wood Duck numbers in various locations, and Pacific Black Duck abundance has remained steady over the past five years,” said WiSH Chair Dr Samara McPhedran.

Wood Duck and Pacific Black Duck are declared game species in a number of states.

In contrast, declines have been recorded among many non-game waterbird species.

“One reason why duck numbers are stable or increasing is that hunters are out there on the wetlands year round, restoring habitat, building nesting boxes, and removing introduced predators so that ducks can breed and thrive.”

“If animal rights extremists genuinely cared about animals, they would do the same. Sadly, they are only interested in ducks for two days each year, on opening weekend, if a camera crew is present.”

There is strong public support for sustainable wildlife use. A recent poll by Victorian newspaper *The Age* found that the majority of respondents, over 5500 people, support the Victorian Government's declaration of a duck season for 2009.

Related information: *State of Australia's Birds 2008*

[http://www.birdsaustralia.com.au/images/stories/publications/soab/SOAB\\_2008.pdf](http://www.birdsaustralia.com.au/images/stories/publications/soab/SOAB_2008.pdf)

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