

# 2026 SMALL GAME MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR QUÉBEC

NEW MEASURES FOR SMALL GAME

HUNTERS STARTING IN FALL 2026



Ruffed grouse © Thomas Pham-Van

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Ministère de l'Environnement, de la Lutte contre  
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The new 2026 Small Game Management Plan aims to ensure the sustainable management of the main small game species based on the best available knowledge, while maintaining attractive hunting opportunities. The plan also seeks to ensure species conservation, improve harvest monitoring and knowledge of emerging issues, optimize species development, and promote coexistence with residents.

## CALENDAR

Ruffed grouse, spruce grouse, sharp-tailed grouse, gray partridge, willow ptarmigan, rock ptarmigan, snowshoe hare, Arctic hare and eastern cottontail

- 1 New hunting calendar in several zones
- 2 Opening of gray partridge hunting in zone 8

Wolf, coyote, red fox and raccoon

- 3 Change to the opening date of the hunting season in certain zones

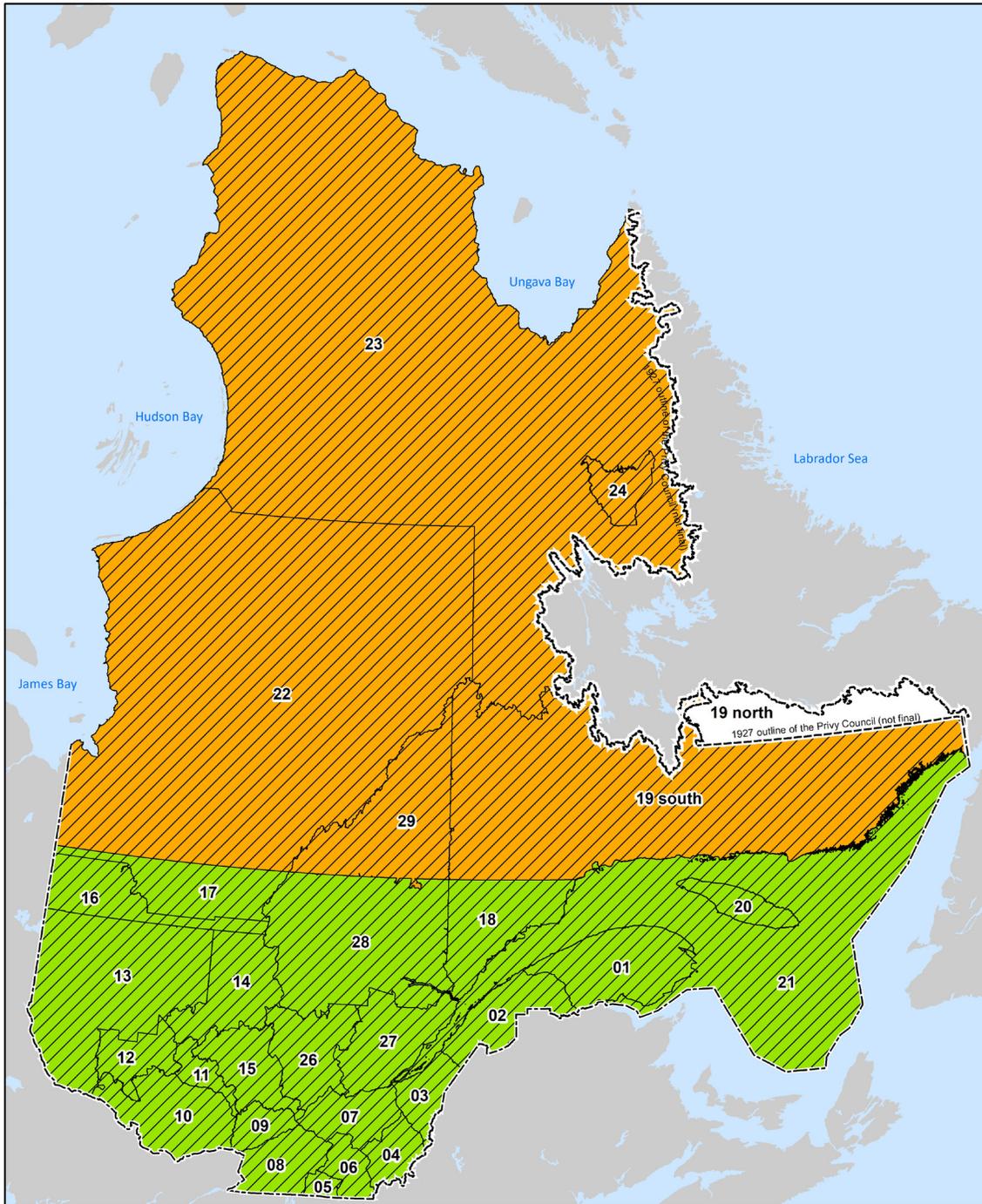
## HUNTING LICENCES

Abolition of the falconry hunting licence

Special rules may apply in certain territories (e.g., Île Verte, Îles-de-la-Madeleine).



# Hunting seasons for ruffed grouse, spruce grouse, sharp-tailed grouse and gray partridge in 2026



**Ruffed grouse, spruce grouse and sharp-tailed grouse**

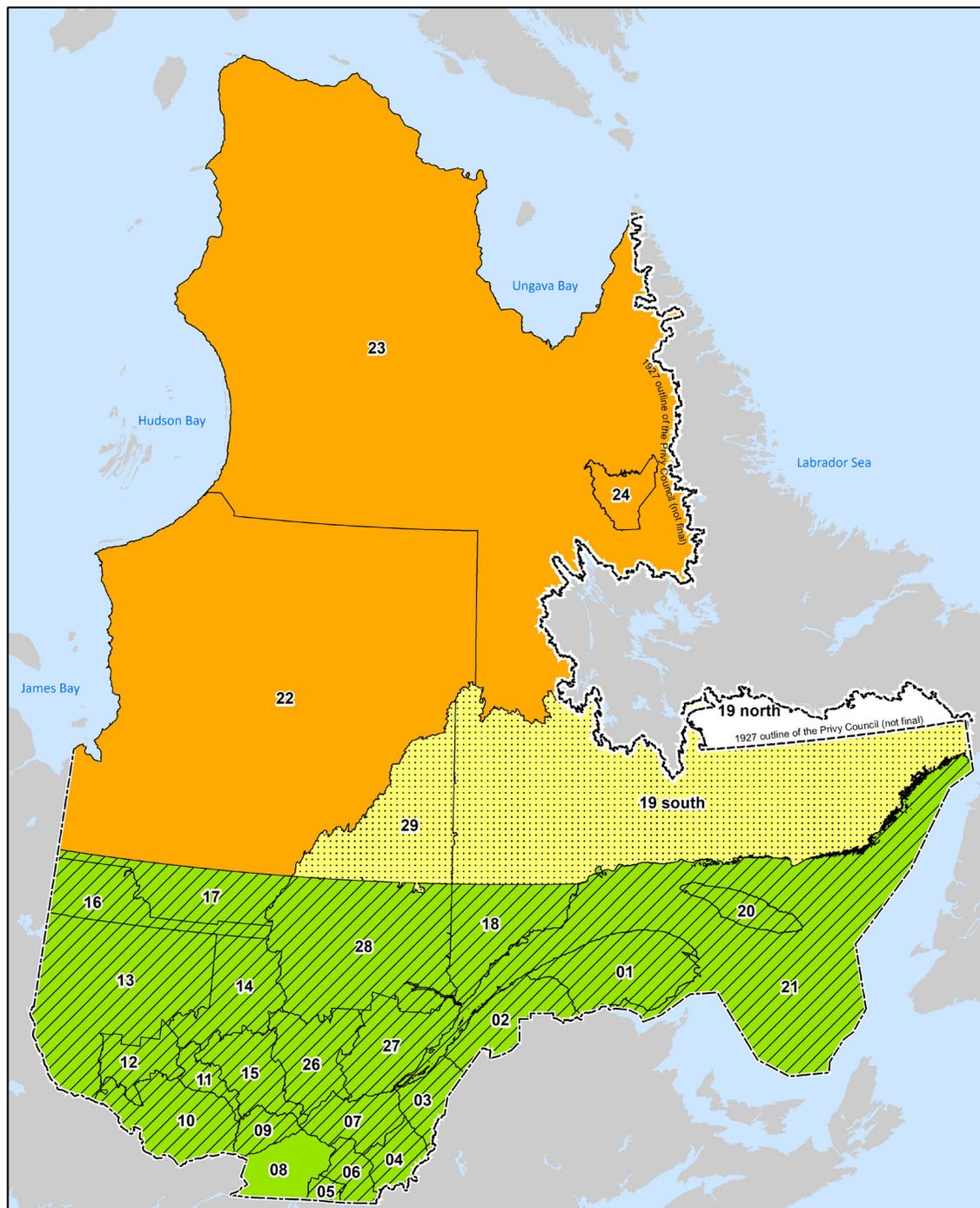
- From Saturday, September 18, or the Saturday closest to that date, to January 15
- From Saturday, September 11, or the Saturday closest to that date, to January 15

**Perdrix grise**

- From Saturday, September 18, or the Saturday closest to that date, to November 15



## Hunting seasons for snowshoe hare, Arctic hare and eastern cottontail in 2026



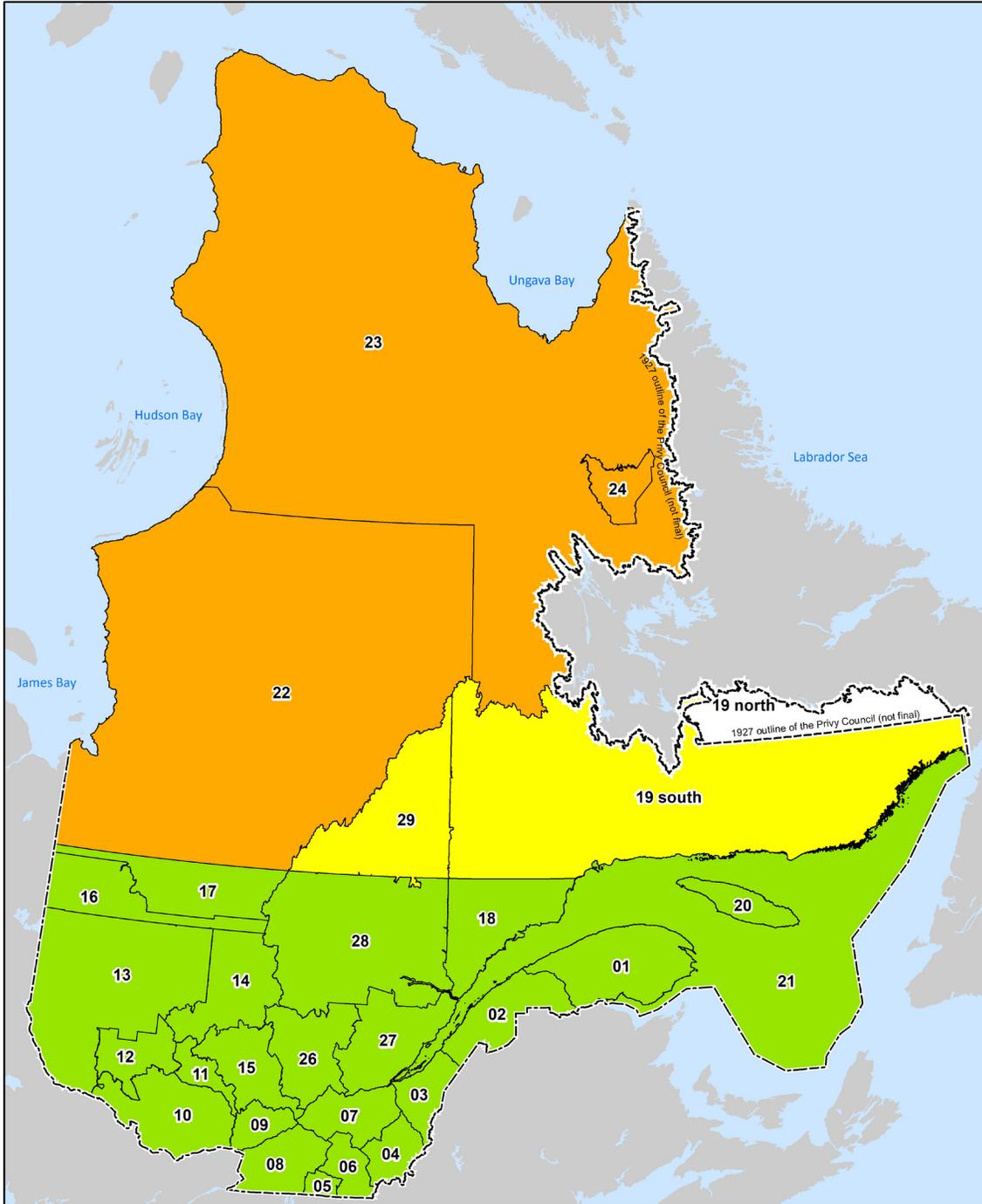
### Firearms, air rifles, crossbow and bow

- From Saturday, September 18, or the Saturday closest to that date, to March 31st
- From Saturday, September 11, or the Saturday closest to that date, to April 30
- From Saturday, September 11, or the Saturday closest to that date, to March 31st

### Snare

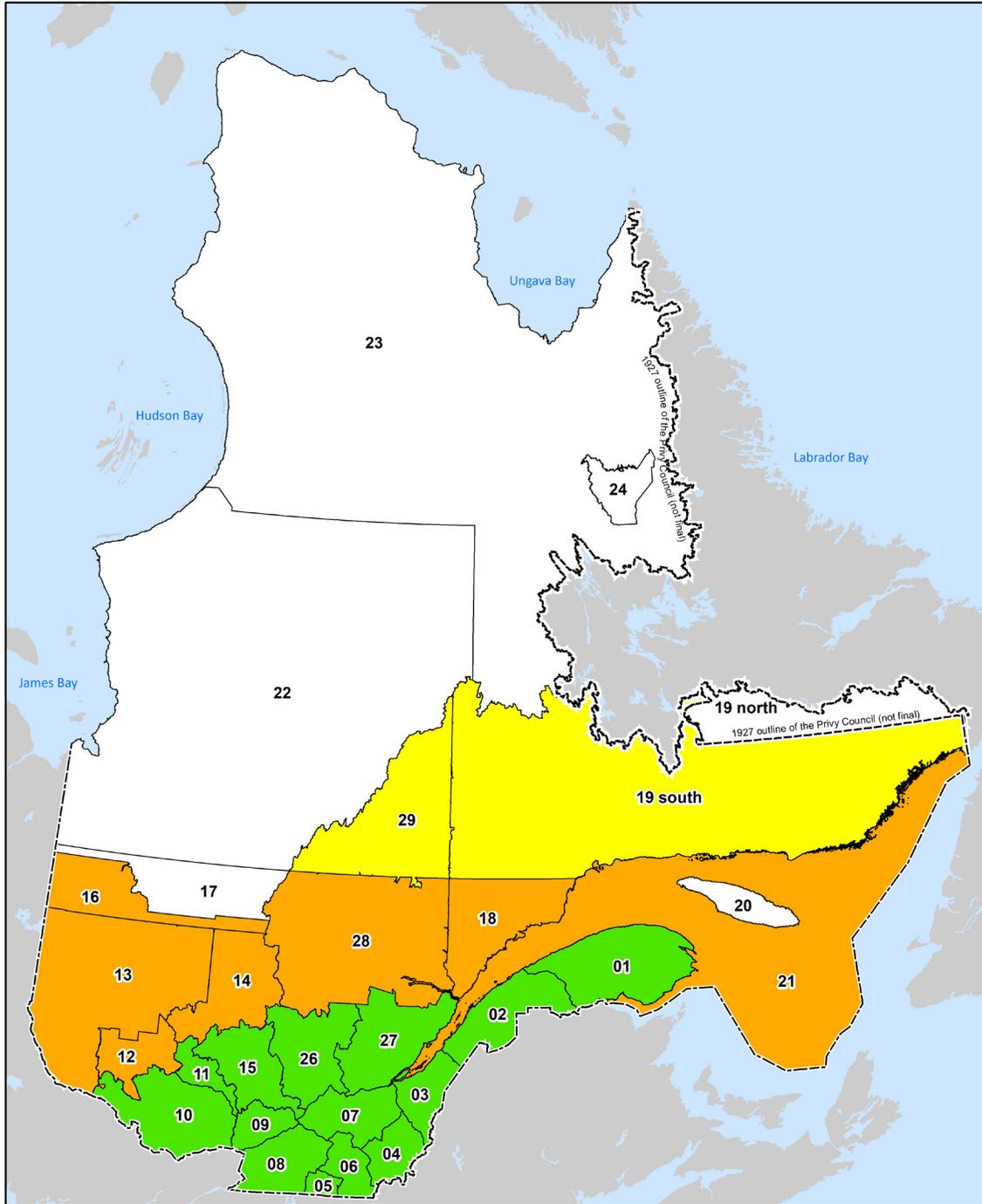
- From Saturday, September 18, or the Saturday closest to that date, to March 31st
- From Saturday, September 11, or the Saturday closest to that date, to March 31st

# Hunting seasons for willow ptarmigan and rock ptarmigan in 2026



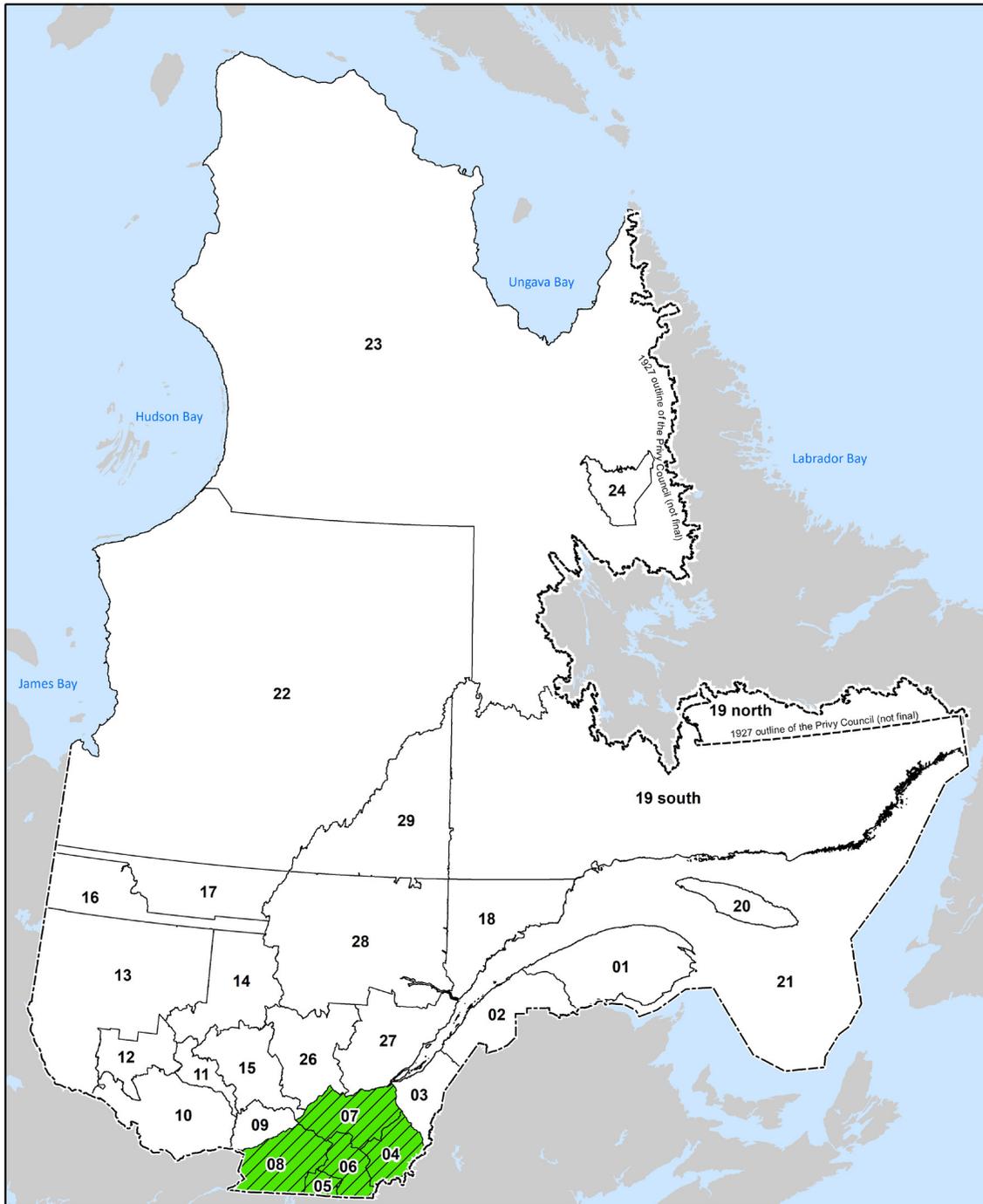
- From Saturday, September 18, or the Saturday closest to that date, to March 31st
- From Saturday, September 11, or the Saturday closest to that date, to April 30
- From Saturday, September 11, or the Saturday closest to that date, to March 31st

# Hunting seasons for wolf and coyote in 2026



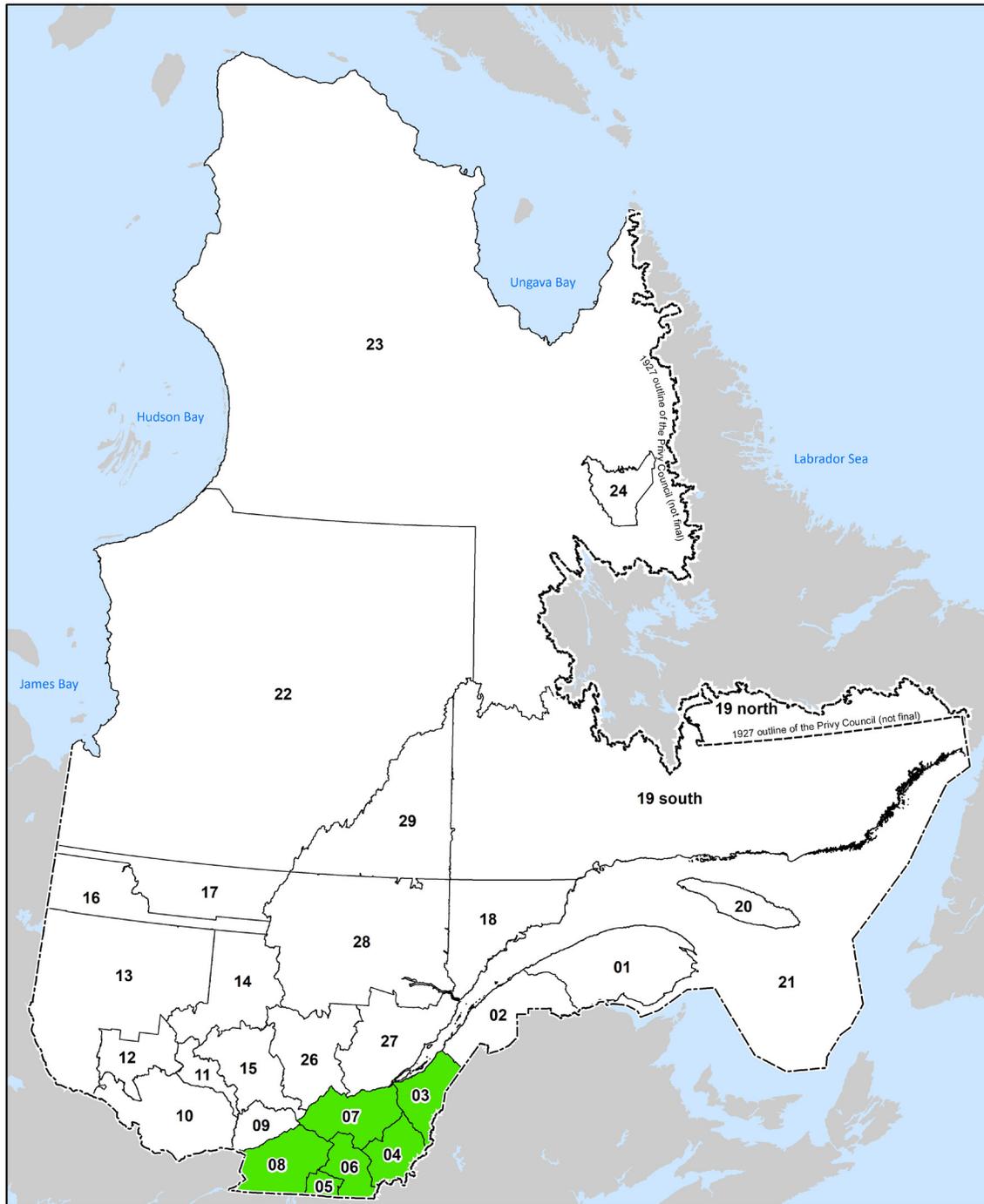
- October 25 to March 31st
- October 18 to March 31st
- October 18 to April 15
- Prohibited

# Hunting seasons for raccoon in 2026



-  October 25 to March 1st
-  October 25 to Decembre 15 (night)
-  Prohibited

# Hunting seasons for red fox in 2026



 October 25 to March 1st

 Prohibited

# New small game hunting measures in 2026

## Ruffed grouse, spruce grouse, sharp-tailed grouse, gray partridge, willow ptarmigan, rock ptarmigan, snowshoe hare, Arctic hare and eastern cottontail

Hunting seasons have been harmonized within the same hunting zone and among zones with similar characteristics. In addition to promoting better understanding of the regulations, this allows more precise monitoring of the impacts of hunting rules on population status and enables adjustments as needed.

- 1 The opening date has been postponed to Saturday, September 18, or the Saturday closest to that date, in zones 5, 8, 9, 11, 15 and 26 for all species.
- 2 The opening date has been postponed to Saturday, September 11, or the Saturday closest to that date, in zones 22, 23 and 24 for all species.
- 3 The closing date of the hunting season for the eastern cottontail, snowshoe hare and Arctic hare has been moved up to March 31 in zones 19 South and 29.
- 4 The closing date of the hunting season for the willow ptarmigan and rock ptarmigan has been moved up to March 31 in zones 1 to 21 and 26 to 29.
- 5 Snaring dates have been harmonized with the dates for other hunting implements. This change affects zones 3 to 7, 9, 11, 15 and 26.
- 6 Gray partridge hunting is authorized in hunting zone 8. The hunting season will begin on Saturday, September 18, or the Saturday closest to that date, and will end on November 15.

## Wolf, coyote, red fox and raccoon

Hunting opening dates have been aligned with the trapping seasons of the corresponding furbearer management units (UGAF).

- 1 The opening date for coyote and wolf hunting has been postponed to October 25 in zone 1 and to October 18 in zones 19 South and 29.
- 2 The opening date for coyote and wolf hunting has been moved up to October 25 in hunting zones 8 and 9.
- 3 The opening date for fox hunting has been moved up to October 25 in hunting zone 8.

Closing dates in all zones remain the same.

## Hunting with a bird of prey

The specific falconry hunting licence (licence to hunt small game with a bird of prey) has been abolished. To practise this activity, hunters must now obtain the regular small game hunting licence. All the rules governing this activity, including eligible game species, remain the same.



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