

# CLOSE SEASONS

## SUMMARY OF QUESTIONS

please summarise your views in the white boxes below

NAME:

ADDRESS:

DAYTIME TEL:

E-MAIL:

*\*note: where insufficient space entails over-run, please use separate sheet as explained in General Notes*



2.1 Should there be a duty of care, prescribed in legislation, on those who manage deer? If so, why and how? Alternatively should Codes be introduced?



2.2 Should all those who kill deer at anytime, including sporting clients and first time shooters, be required to demonstrate that they are able to meet minimum standards of competency? If so, how?



3.1 Under current deer legislation, there is a requirement for a close season to be set for females. A close season for males is discretionary. Are there moral reasons for deer of all species and both sexes having a close season?



3.2 Are there legitimate concerns arising from deer management /control during the close season that can be met through practitioners following Best Practice and voluntary codes of practice? Under what circumstance do you think that these decisions should be moderated by Government?





3.3 Should seasons vary by species?



3.4 The relationships between climate, habitat and human management objectives are complex. Should seasons vary to take account of either geographical or habitat considerations and, if so, how could this be practically achieved and enforced?



3.5 Should seasons take account of the stage of pregnancy?



3.6 When are juveniles no longer dependent on their mothers to the extent that there are no welfare implications ?



3.7 Do juveniles require a close season?



3.8 Do males require a close season?





3.9 Should seasons be based purely on welfare or should they also take account of other factors such as venison quality, sporting objectives, damage control, cull effectiveness, access or other issues?



3.10 Based on your responses provided in Point 3, please provide any suggestions for the dates that you should set as the close season for all four species of wild deer in Scotland, split by sex. In addition please provide a brief rationale for each of those dates.



4.1 When should the protection of property allow the taking or killing of deer once a close season has been set, and how should this be tested?



4.2 Do you agree that Section 25 of the Deer (Scotland) Act 1996 should be expanded in terms of deer welfare to include disease and starvation? Do you have any you would wish to add?



4.3 In the interests of public safety, when might deer be taken or killed in the close season?





4.4 To protect the natural heritage, should the taking or killing of deer be allowed once a close season has been set?



4.5 What means are there to prevent exceptions to close seasons being over-used?



5.1 Should all who take or kill deer during the close seasons be subject to the same authorisation process?



5.2 How should owner/occupiers deal with an emergency situation within a closed season?



The consultation period ends on the 4th February 2005 and all responses must be received by then.

Responses to this consultation should be sent to :

Deer Commission for Scotland Alpha Centre Unit 11, Stirling University  
Innovation Park, Stirling FK9 4NF

Alternatively responses can be emailed to: [seasonsconsultation@deercom.com](mailto:seasonsconsultation@deercom.com)

The consultation is available for download in electronic format from:  
<http://www.dcs.gov.uk>