

The U.S. Shorebird Conservation Partnership

Building Collaborative Action for Shorebird Conservation

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Monsieur le Préfet:

We understand there is a hunting law being considered by the French Parliament that would revoke measures enacted in 2017 that required all hunters in French Guiana obtain a hunting permit. Prior to this, French Guiana was the only French Overseas Department that did not require a hunting permit. We believe revoking the permit requirement would reduce the ability to achieve a sustainable harvest of shorebirds in French Guiana, with implications for the entire Atlantic Americas Flyway.

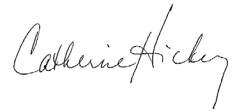
Since the requirement for a hunting permit came into effect, more than 5,500 hunting permits have been issued by the Office National de la Chasse et de la Faune Sauvage (ONCFS) to hunters in French Guiana. Also during that time, we understand that the ONCFS and the Préfecture began conducting a major consultation campaign to develop the content of a hunting permit training course, which will include learning about the safe handling of firearms, wildlife ecology, and appropriate wildlife regulations. We believe these positive steps toward hunting sustainability should continue.

The implementation of the hunting permit is also valuable to the work conducted in collaboration with the Canadian Wildlife Service, the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the Atlantic Flyway Shorebird Initiative (AFSI). Plans for future training included addressing concepts related to shorebird ecology and management and development of modules for hunters specializing in migratory gamebird hunting. The hunting permit is also a tool that supports the development of governance for hunting in French Guiana, a prerequisite for concerted and informed management of shorebirds. Without any means to identify hunters and without coordination of hunting practices, management measures developed by French, American, and Canadian partners will have very little effect.

The U. S. Shorebird Conservation Partnership (USSCP) and its Council is a collective of individuals and organizations who are expert in the long-term conservation of the Western Hemisphere's shorebirds. USSCP representatives have extensive experience in shorebird conservation and include federal agencies, state agencies and non-governmental organizations. We work collaboratively to address shorebird conservation issues and propose solutions.

Accordingly, we are interested in the fate of the hunting permit law in French Guiana and the effects its repeal will have on the ability to maintain populations of migratory shorebirds. We hope you will support the continuation of issuing hunter permits in French Guiana.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Catherine Hickey".

Catherine Hickey, Vice Chair
U.S. Shorebird Conservation Partnership