

Seward Fish & Game Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes of January 16, 2009

Meeting was called to order at 7:07 pm

Members Present: Jim McCracken, Ezra Campbell, Robin Collman, W C Casey, Joe Cziglenyi, John Flood, Mark Clemens, Arne Hatch

Members Absent Excused: Dianne Dubuc, Dr. Matt Hall, Carl Locke, Doug McRae Sr, Bill Perdue, Corey Hetrick

Members Absent Unexcused: Jim Hubbard, Mitch McDevitt

Minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

Agenda was approved with the addition of an update of progress on ADF&G stationing a biologist in Seward year round.

Correspondence was read from Kenai Hydro LLC on a meeting in Cooper Landing next week. The committee will review the information provided and determine if an invitation should be extended.

Public Comments

Bob White – Found two recurring themes in the BOG proposal books, environmental enthusiasts and the eminent extinction of moose due to bear predation on the Kenai Peninsula.

Agency Reports:

Mark Cloward – FWP There is now a brown shirt in Cooper Landing and has been in place for about six weeks Ken Atton. Former fresh water/ sport fish guide and hails from Craig / Klawock. The AC would like to extend an invitation to him. The troopers are having a hard time finding wildlife enforcement officers. The job is not a popularity contest... Mark would like to see an investigator assigned to Seward. The troopers do take note of moose / bear counts when they are out flying. They have a Trooper ride along program, for anyone interested in observing the job for a day. The issue of Seward city limits being closed to hunting. The Council can't close Seward to hunting without Board action. What they can do is restrict firearm discharge or archery. There are some good compromises under consideration. Mark would like an opportunity to speak to the council.

One member does have concern about stray bullets within city limits. Permits can help ensure a qualified person will be the one participating in this type of activity.

Goat population seems very viable from what Mark has observed. The small areas that are available for sheep are not big enough to accommodate many hunters.

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ADF&G – Jeff Selinger is here to assist with the discussion of proposals. Jeff intends to discuss the current management objectives on brown bear with the board to allow additional harvest. Taking adult females will have an impact on overall population. 10 adult females maximum in the harvest (not counting city limit DLP's against the total 10) and if that goes through, he would petition the board to open the season September 15, getting better access. Moose surveys – don't know if the bulls have redistributed from recent burn areas. 15A has been below average in the objectives, but most of the lands are federal and would require federal buy in. 15C will likely see a reconfiguration of the fork requirements

Board of Game Comments

Proposal number	Description	Vote and any amendments	AC Comments
Proposal 12	Reauthorize antlerless moose in 7 / 14C Placer 20 mile	7-1 Support	Oppose was in honor of Billy Miller's opposition to shooting any females. Support is to keep it on the books.
Proposal 29	Wounded bears count as bag limit in 6D	7-0-1 Support	This is the right thing to do.
Proposal 30	Modify bag limit to one every 2 years in 6	0-6-2 Oppose	Don't believe this is necessary and prefer status quo.
Proposal 31	Open fall season 10 days later in 6D	4-0-4 Support	To keep a few more animals around, you would impose these restrictions. They are exceeding female harvest.
Proposal 117	Modify sea duck seasons and bag limits in 15	0-7-1 Oppose	There is not a biological concern
Proposal 121	Close trapping season in 7, 15	2-4-2 Oppose	Have not personally seen many foxes and there are more in Cooper Landing / Sterling area.
Proposal 122	change season and bag limits for martin in 15	0-7-1 Oppose	There is no biological concern and oppose reduction in opportunity.
Proposal 123	change season and bag limits for wolverine in 15	0-7-1 Oppose	There is no biological concern and oppose reduction in opportunity.
Proposal 124	remove salvage requirements for hide, evidence of sex in 6-7, 15	0-6-2 Oppose	Prefer to defer to the Cooper Landing AC. Question was brought up of splitting the salvage requirement on black / brown bear.
Proposal 125	allow sale of hides and skulls in 7, 15	Amended to include the sale of claws and add classification of furbearer, strike first sentence in paragraph 2 under Issue and add claws after skull. Under What will happen if nothing is done, strike the last sentence. Under Other Solutions	This proposal was submitted by Doug McRae and incorrectly listed as submitted by the Seward AC. This may help defray some of the cost in predator control and provide some additional harvest.

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		Considered, strike all of it and add the verbiage list black bear under a predator control program. 7-0-1 on amendment 7-0-1 Support	
Proposal 126	increase bag limit to 3 in 7,15	Remove the split season by making the season Jan 1 – Dec 31.7-0-1 amendment 7-0-1 SA	Continue to support control of the black bear population on the Kenai Peninsula. The committee discussed removing the split season and leaving the limit at 2 annually.
Proposal 127	extend halting season to June 30, increase bag limit to 3 in 7, 15	5-2-1 Support	This may increase some harvest and this closely parallels the Seward AC proposal. Youth might also be able to participate with those dates.
Proposal 128	allow sale of hides, reclassify as furbearer in 15	No action	This is in line with the Seward AC proposal. Aligning GMU 7 & 15 regulations will make enforcement easier. No action based on Prop 125.
Proposal 129	Open nonresident drawing hunt with guide client agreement in 7	0-7-1 Oppose	This would only apply for nonresident to once every four years.
Proposal 130	Establish general season hunt in 7	No action	No action based on Prop 132.
Proposal 131	Establish archery general season hunt in 7	No action	No action based on Prop 132
Proposal 132	Establish drawing hunt with minimum number of permits. In 7,15	Amended to strike reference to predator control language Add under other solutions considered: Predator control, but would be limited to state lands. 7-0-1 on amendment 7-0-1 SA	The dates were intentionally liberal to allow opportunity to harvest a brown bear.
Proposal 133	Establish drawing hunt with minimum number of permits for reproductive age females. In 7, 15	No action	No action based on Prop 132
Proposal 134	Shift drawing hunt dates earlier in 7, 15	No action	No action based on Prop 132
Proposal 135	Allow hunting in areas where DLP's occur in 7, 15	No action	No action based on Prop 132
Proposal 136	Open fall hunting season	No action	No action based on Prop 132

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	in 7, 15		
Proposal 137	Open longer season, allow baiting in 7, 15	5-1-2 Support	Proponent was present and sees permit system as the only viable methods of harvesting; however it is not being utilized. This is a sure way of harvesting brown bears.
Proposal 138	Shift season dates to allow taking of big boars in 15	No action	No action based on Prop 132
Proposal 139	Increase the number of permits in 15	No action	No action based on Prop 132
Proposal 140	Open archery hunting season in 15	No action	No action based on Prop 132
Proposal 141	Open fall hunting season in 15	No action	No action based on Prop 132
Proposal 142	Establish separate bag limit for hunters taking nannies in 7, 15	6-1-1 Support	This is a good proposal. Opposition doesn't have ten years to wait.
Proposal 144	Open Seward closed area to drawing hunt in 7	7-0-1 Support	Proponent was present and spoke on his proposal. There is a slice of habitat that is not currently being utilized and could provide some additional opportunity.
Proposal 145	Require sealing of moose antlers in 7, 15	0-7-1 Oppose	Don't believe the proposal will have the intended effect.
Proposal 146	Open drawing permit hunt of spike fork in 7, 15A	7-0-1 Support	There is a limited amount of resource in the Seward area. This may reduce harvest. The committee had discussion about the breeding practices of bulls and antler configurations. Removal of these bulls will also benefit the breeding populations of moose.
Proposal 147	Close moose season for 3 years in 7, 15A	8-0 Support	There is a problem with recruitment of moose on the Kenai Peninsula. Unit 7 supported 130 – 150 bull harvest over a period of years. AK Moose Federation is also working on habitat.
Proposal 148	Modify season dates in 7, 15	NA	The committee has discussed these type of proposals in the past. No action based on Proposal 147.
Proposal 149	Eliminate spike fork portion of bag limit in 7, 15	NA	No action based on Proposal 146.
Proposal 150	Modify bag limit for drawing hunts in 15B	4-0-4	It will allow hunting opportunity.
Proposal 151	Reauthorize antlerless season in 15C, Homer	7-1 Support	Oppose was in honor of Billy Miller's opposition to shooting any females. Support is to keep it on the books.
Proposal 152	Reauthorize antlerless season in 15A, Skilak Loop	7-1 Support	Oppose was in honor of Billy Miller's opposition to shooting any females. Support is to keep it on the books.
Proposal 153	Establish wolf control area in 7, 15	7-0-1	Like to have the ability to reduce the wolf population by any practical

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			means.
Proposal 154	Establish predator control area in 15A, 15C	NA	These populations are under the management objectives. No action based on Prop 153.
Proposal 156	Open registration permit hunts, remove closed area in 7	6-1-1 Support	Proponent spoke this goes along with the earlier goat proposal. It would provide some additional harvest opportunity in a difficult area to hunt.
Proposal 183	Reauthorize antlerless season in 16B, Kalgin Island	7-1 Support	Oppose was in honor of Billy Miller's opposition to shooting any females. Support is to keep it on the books.

WC Casey updated the committee on following up on getting a F&G biologist in Seward year round. The committee is made up of WC Casey, Mark Clemens, Dianne Dubuc, Willard Dunham.

Ezra Campbell was approved to represent the Seward AC at the Board of Game meeting in February / March.

Elections were held with the following results: Dianne Dubuc, Doug McRae, Sr, Carl Locke, Arne Hatch, and James Corey Hetrick were elected to three year seats; Joe Czigenyi and Bob White were elected for one year alternates.

Officer elections were held with the following results: Jim McCracken, Chair; Dianne Dubuc, Vice Chair; Corey Hetrick, Secretary.

Kid Fishing Day – is held the third Saturday in May and will be contingent upon ADF&G stocking plan. Robin Collman will coordinate the event.

Next meeting will be held on at February 19th.

Meeting adjourned at 11:15 pm.

Cooper Landing Fish & Game Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes of January 15, 2009

Meeting was called to order at 6:21 pm

Members Present: Karl Romig, Jim Givens, George Heim, John Pearson, Mike Adams, Gerald Neis, Billy Coulliette, Robert Gibson

Members Absent Excused: Ray Wilkes, Colin Lowe, Kyle Kolodziejski

Members Absent Unexcused: Bob Overman, Dominic Bauer, Robert Siter, III, Andy Szczesny

Agenda was approved with the meeting to adjourn at 10:20 pm. Minutes of the previous meeting, dated November 13, 2008 were read and approved.

Elections were held with the following results: George Heim – 3 year seat and Erick Fish as a one year alternate.

Election of Officers was held with the following results: Karl Romig, Chair; James Givens, Vice Chair; John Pearson, Secretary

Old Business

KRSMA land selections – Bill Stockwell spoke about this at the last meeting with some booklets being distributed. George Heim serves on the KRSMA Board and Bill was looking for support from the AC to give a better chance of those lands going through. The lands would become state park lands, giving better protection. Concern of lands that aren't watersheds and why so much land is being sought. Discussion of shooting a firearm within so many feet of a structure was expressed (should any buildings be put up in the area). Another concern was what if some of those lands become paid access, which is a possibility. The area seems to have grown over time. Waikiki Beach is a prime area of concern. The lands seem to be under consideration, as long as Cooper Landing residents are willing to care take. Areas that have problems should be dealt with. Adding up the area from the maps are about 10,000 acres, which some members prefer to leave as is. Some of the areas are also being looked at by the Borough and if they obtain it, they could be sold as private parcels, which is also a concern. Some members of the committee don't believe lands should have to be transferred to KRSMA, just to protect the lands. 200 feet up the creeks and the waterways are good aspects of the plan. The committee will draft a letter to send to the Borough Mayor, Legislators, KRSMA. There is a meeting on January 20th at 7 pm at the Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly Chambers. Gerald Neis will bring the letter and represent the AC at that meeting.

COMMENT # 20

Brown Bear species of special concern – AC will write a letter of support to remove the species of special concern designation for Brown Bears on the Kenai Peninsula. Distribution of the letter would be to the Commissioner of ADF&G, Alaska Board of Game and the other advisory committees on the Kenai Peninsula.

New Business

Board of Game proposal comments

Kenai/Homer Area		Vote	Amendments	AC Comments
Proposal 112	Reauthorize antlerless season in 7-14C Placer 20 mile	9-0	Support	Annual reauthorization to keep on the books
Proposal 117	Modify sea duck seasons and bag limits in 15	0-9	Oppose	Committee felt they didn't have enough information to support
Proposal 118	Close season in 15	0-9	Oppose	Believe there is no biological concern to harvest
Proposal 119	Lengthen trapping season in 7-15	9-0	Support	Seasons should be lengthened to allow for open water trapping and there are no biological concerns on this species
Proposal 120	Close trapping season in portion of Unit 15C		NA	No action based on Proposal 119
Proposal 121	Close trapping season in 7-15	0-8-1	Oppose	This is unnecessarily restrictive. The idea of requiring sealing of any harvested in order to obtain biological information was supported
Proposal 122	Change season and bag limits in 15	0-9	Oppose	Depletion doesn't seem to be an issue
Proposal 123	Change season and bag limits in 15	0-9	Oppose	No biological concern
Proposal 124	remove salvage requirements for hide evidence of sex in 7-15	7-2	SA	Retain the evidence of sex but with an option of hide or. This will align these units with others in the state and relieve hardship from those requirements

A/C COMMENT # 20

Cooper Landing Fish & Game Advisory Committee
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				attached to the meet- and Skull requirements 7-2	
Proposal 125	allow sale of hides and skulls in 7, 15		NA		No action based on action on Proposal 123
Proposal 126	increase bag limit to 3 in 7, 15	1-8	Oppose		Prefer status quo
Proposal 127	extend baiting season to June 30, increase bag limit to 3 in 7, 15	3	Oppose		Prefer status quo. Concern of friction with other user groups. This would be inconsistent with other GMUS in the area.
Proposal 128	allow sale of hides, reclassify as turbearer in 15	9-0	SA	Amend to include Unit 7, add sale of claws and skull 9-0	It's good to make use of the entire animal. Better use of the resource and less waste.
Proposal 129	Open nonresident drawing hunt with guide client agreement in 7	1-8	Oppose		Prefer nonresident hunt in more remote area. This could take away an already limited resident harvest.
Proposal 130	Establish general season hunt in 7		NA		No action based on action on Prop 133
Proposal 131	Establish archery general season hunt in 7		NA		No action based on action on Prop 133
Proposal 132	Establish drawing hunt with minimum number of permits in 7, 15		NA		No action based on action on Prop 133
Proposal 133	Establish drawing hunt with minimum number of permits for reproductive age females in 7, 15	9-0	SA	Hunting season to begin September 15 th 9-0	Amendment would allow incidental harvest while moose hunting.
Proposal 134	Shift drawing hunt dates earlier in 7, 15		NA		No action based on action on Prop 133
Proposal 135	Allow hunting in areas where DLP's occur in 7, 15		NA		No action based on action on Prop 133
Proposal 136	Open fall hunting season in 7, 15		NA		No action based on action on Prop 133
Proposal 137	Open longer season, allow baiting in 7, 15		NA		No action based on action on Prop 133

A/C COMMENT # 20

C... Landing Fish & Game Advisory Committee
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Proposal 138	Shift season dates to allow taking of big boars in 15		NA		No action based on action on Prop 133
Proposal 139	Increase the number of permits in 15		NA		No action based on action on Prop 133
Proposal 140	Open archery hunting season in 15		NA		No action based on action on Prop 133
Proposal 141	Open fall hunting season in 15		NA		No action based on action on Prop 133
Proposal 142	Establish separate bag limit for hunters taking nannies in 7, 15	9-0	Support		Good for conservation and provides additional incentive to ensure harvest of billy goats
Proposal 143	Require guide-client agreements for draw in 7	4-4-1	Oppose		This provides better control of harvest of the sex and makes it less likely for a person to put in for a tag and not use it. Prefer status quo.
Proposal 144	Open Seward closed area to drawing hunt in 7	7-1-1	Support		Adds another area to hunt. Oppose believes a person should get out of city limits to hunt.
Proposal 145	Require sealing of moose antlers in 7, 15	0-9	Oppose		This would be a hardship on the hunter.
Proposal 146	Open drawing permit hunt of spike fork in 7, 15A	0-9	Oppose		It would restrict harvest unless you get a drawing permit. The purpose is to allow more breeding stock. If there were other measures to increase moose populations, there might be some support, but a person just has to look at other areas that have implemented spike fork and see this doesn't work.
Proposal 147	Close moose season for 3 years in 7, 15A		NA		No action based on Prop 146
Proposal 148	Modify season dates in 7, 15	1-8	Oppose		Provides more opportunity for harvest, reducing chance of meat spoilage. Prefer status quo.

AVC COMMENT # 20

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Proposal 149	Eliminate spike fork portion of bag limit in 7, 15	2-6-1	Oppose		Prefer ability to harvest spike fork and hoping it will make improvement in the number of animals long term.
Proposal 150	Modify bag limit for drawing hunts in 15B	7-0-2			Adds hunting opportunity.
Proposal 151	Reauthorize antlerless season in 15C	9-0	Support		Annual reauthorization to keep on the books.
Proposal 152	Reauthorize antlerless season in 15A, Skilak Loop	9-0	Support		Annual reauthorization to keep on the books.
Proposal 153	Establish wolf control area in 7, 15	1-5-3	Oppose		Support predator control. Unit 7 hasn't been identified as an area of intensive management.
Proposal 154	Establish predator control area in 15A, 15C	2-3-4	Oppose		Support predator control. Don't agree with predator control.
Proposal 155	Allocate percentage of draw permits to nonresidents in 7	0-9	Oppose		This could limit resident opportunity.
Proposal 156	Open registration permit hunts, remove closed area in 7	0-6-3	Oppose	Robert White	They should take this up at the city level.
Proposal 157	Modify trapping season ending date to accommodate leap years in 7, 15	9-0	Support	Kenai Peninsula Trappers Association (Mike Crawford, president)	There is confusion on a leap year and is an easy fix.
Proposal 183	Reauthorize antlerless season in 16B, Kalgin Island	9-0	Support		Annual reauthorization to keep on the books.

Board of Game will meet in Anchorage February 27 – March 9. Karl Romig will attend to represent the AC.

Kenai Peninsula fish habitat partnership/potential partners

MOU between USFS and ADF&G

Sport Fish Economic Survey is available on the Department of Sport Fish web site. AK Moose Federation will be holding a banquet in Seward RR Terminal on January 23rd at 5:30 tickets available from Robert Gibson. Wolf Trapping School will be held at the Trail

A/C COMMENT # 20

Cc Landing Fish & Game Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes of January 15, 2009

Lake lodging in Moose Pass on February 7-8 to begin at 8 am, meals provided – tickets available from Robert Gibson. KRSMA meeting will be February 12th at the Kenai River Center at 5:30 pm.

Next meeting to be determined.

AC COMMENT # 20

to have bear baiting in IBE. It is a human safety issue. We certainly don't need food to be put out for bears.

4. We oppose Proposal 114 that would change the present boundary of the predator control area to the west which would include Denali State Park. ~~The~~ Actual predator control in the Park conflicts with the purpose of the Park and conflicts with Park Management.

Please consider this.

Becky Long



Kachemak Bay Conservation Society

3734 Ben Walters Lane
Homer, AK 99603

Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Board Support Section
PO Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

RECEIVED

FEB 11 2009

BOARDS

February 9, 2009

Dear BOG Members:

The Kachemak Bay Conservation Society (KBCS) is based in Homer, Alaska and has over the last 30 years been involved in numerous conservation issues that affect the Cook Inlet region, particularly the Kachemak Bay area. We are grateful that our region generally has an abundance and diversity of wildlife habitat and populations and we will continue to be proactive in sustaining this heritage. We support both the consumptive and nonconsumptive uses of wildlife providing each activity is consistent with good conservation practices. State statute (AS 16.05.221) defines conservation as the "controlled utilization of a resource to prevent its exploitation, destruction or neglect."

Following are KBCS comments on some proposals for the Spring 2008 Meeting of the Board of Game (BOG). In some cases our comments apply to more than one proposal.

Proposal 42 – Support.

This proposal addresses a temporal conflict that exists between bear hunting and viewing in an area of Katmai National Preserve where both activities are allowed. In late fall (October) bears are attracted to and congregate at certain salmon spawning areas within the Preserve. This in turn attracts bear viewers and bear hunters as well as sport fisherman, which sometimes get in each other's way. The proposal suggests that a two week delay in the opening of the brown bear season would mitigate this conflict, yet still provide good opportunity for bear viewing and hunting.

While we believe that there is often compatibility between hunting and wildlife viewing, conflicts do occur. Resolution of these conflicts is often based on acknowledging that not all uses of wildlife should coexist at the same time and /or place. Since choices have to be made, we think that congregations of bears are more suitable to viewing than hunting. With this proposal, a hunt would still take place but at a later date when bears are more dispersed and less habituated to the presence of people, which many hunters prefer. Accordingly, we favor

RECEIVED TIME FEB. 11. 11:27AM

Public Comment # 113

delaying the brown bear hunting season in Unit 9C from October 1 until October 15 and urge that you approve this proposal.

Homer is the gateway for brown bear viewing in Katmai National Park. Consequently, resolving this conflict has important economic ramifications for the Homer economy. In addition, many of our members have enjoyed bear viewing in this area.

Proposal 45 – Support

This proposal essentially eliminates the fall brown bear hunt in Unit 9C, but still allows a spring hunt in even years. The purpose of this change is to reduce the overall harvest of brown bears in Katmai Preserve to a level that better sustains more abundant populations than the status quo as well as better age diversity. Based on the reports that KBCS receives from those who are familiar with the area, the dramatic increase in harvest the past few years seems to be excessive and maybe unsustainable. Reducing hunting pressure should result in a higher quality hunt, an important factor with brown bear hunters.

This proposal would obviate the need for proposal 42.

Proposal 117 (sea ducks), 118 (sandhill cranes), 119 (beaver), 120 (beaver), 121 (red fox), 122 (marten), 123 (wolverine) – Defer Based on Alternative Action.

All of the above proposals deal with the central issue of local exploitation of game birds and small furbearers. Rather than discuss the specifics of each proposal, we would rather address what appears to be a systemic problem for the Kenai Peninsula and, no doubt, other areas of Alaska. Based on the concerns expressed in these proposals (with the exception of 119) it is apparent that even though the regional population of a species may be healthy, local populations can be hunted or trapped at levels that exceed sustainable yield, thereby resulting in long term, local depletion of these species - maybe even extirpation. If so, future generations of consumptive and nonconsumptive users will be denied the opportunity to harvest and/or view these species locally. We believe that the Board of Game can and should be instrumental in mitigating this situation.

If localized depletion or extirpation of game birds and small furbearers is to be avoided, the Division of Wildlife Conservation needs to have the wherewithal to micromanage these species. It needs information and authority comparable to the management of Alaska's fisheries. Alaska is rightfully proud of the fact that it has sustainably managed its fisheries for decades. This has been largely accomplished by micromanaging fish populations and habitat. In essence, ADF&G has over the years acquired the information that is needed to prescribe escapement for virtually every watershed in the state and how much can be sustainably harvested. In addition, the Board of Fisheries has given biologists the authority to locally regulate harvest. If Alaska is to have an abundance and diversity of game birds and small furbearers, the Division of Wildlife Conservation needs to develop similar capabilities.

The starting point is more and better information. Although the Division of Wildlife Conservation has many dedicated biologists, it unfortunately does not have the manpower or funding that is needed to inventory all species of wildlife, let alone big game, so that it can make more than an educated guess regarding the sustainable harvest for many species, particularly for local areas that have easy access and are more prone to hunting/trapping pressure. **Therefore, what KBCS would like to propose is that in order to supplement ADF&G effort, the BOG establish a stakeholder advisory committee that is charged with drafting a conservation plan for Kenai Peninsula game birds and small furbearers.** The purpose of this conservation plan is to assure optimal availability and diversity of wildlife resources, not to allocate between various users. The stakeholders appointed by the BOG should include Kenai Peninsula Fish and Game Advisory Committees, conservation organizations and other government resource management agencies, etc.. The principal objective of this collaborative effort should be a review of scientific studies as well as anecdotal information to determine if Kenai Peninsula game birds and furbearers have any localized areas of depletion.

If the review finds that there is insufficient data to determine populations, range and what should be sustainable levels of harvest, than the charge to the committee is to investigate other means for acquiring this data. Perhaps other agencies or organizations also have information or future projects that could add to the conservation plan. Or, knowing what information needs exist might attract research efforts by students seeking a meaningful project. Also, citizen science birding projects (e.g. Christmas Bird Count) now make a significant contribution to ornithological studies and the same principles could be applied to wildlife studies on the Kenai Peninsula.

Another objective of this effort is to have at least a summary of this data under one cover that is easily available to the public. Besides keeping the public abreast of ADF&G's knowledge on Kenai Peninsula game birds and furbearers, this information could result in BOG proposals that are based on more comprehensive information.

KBCS believes that establishing an Advisory Committee on Kenai Peninsula Game Birds and Small Furbearers is consistent with the actions the BOG has taken with other game issues and could make a locally significant difference in assuring that these species are sustainably managed, both locally and regionally, thereby assuring maximum use consistent with the desires of both the consumptive and nonconsumptive users. We recognize that the charge to the committee may need to be more detailed than what we have mentioned in this letter and would be pleased to assist in working out the details.

Proposal 118

One proposal referred to above that we do want to make a specific comment on is Proposal 118. This proposal asks that the hunting season for Lesser Sandhill Cranes be closed in GMU 15C because of concerns about mortality due to predation, habitat losses, and hunting. Currently, harvest by hunters of Lesser Sandhill Cranes that migrate through or breed in GMU 15C is not well known. Consequently, we request the BOG to ask that the Harvest Information Program (HIP) provide more detailed data which lists harvest specific to the Lesser Sandhill Cranes that use the Pacific Flyway. Having flyway specific data is essential for a more accurate analysis of the impact that hunting has on this population of cranes.

Proposal 125 & 128 – Opposition

The intent of both of these proposals is to allow the sale of black bear hides. KBCS considers this a back door approach to commercial hunting. In fact, Proposal 128 states that "selling the hides would provide another source of income for Alaskan residents." KBCS opposes any attempt to privatize Alaska's publicly owned wildlife resources, which would be the result if commercial hunting (or any proxy of commercial hunting such as predator control) were allowed.

As you well know, the Board of Game was created by statute "for purposes of the conservation and development of the game resources of the state." As described in ADF&G's "Hunter Education Independent Study Guide" the concept of wildlife conservation grew out of a concern by sportsmen in the late 1800s that many wildlife populations in North America were being threatened by commercial hunting. Teddy Roosevelt, one of the great icons of both sport hunting and conservation said; "The professional market hunter who kills game for the hide or for the feathers or for the meat or to sell antlers and other trophies; market men who put game in cold storage; and the rich people, who are content to buy what they have not the skill to get by their own exertions - these are the men who are the real enemies of game."

Market hunters thought only of themselves, not "the greatest good to the greatest number" as championed by George Bird Grinnell, another icon in the embryonic days of conservation. Even today, when conservation is well established, there will always be those who put their own interests first and would like to make an extra buck by selling game trophies, hides, etc. This foot in the door approach will just create incentive and pressure for more opportunity to sell more trophies and hides, irrespective of its impact on wildlife populations. Any semblance of market hunting needs to be opposed by the BOG.

Furthermore, it is questionable whether any increase in black bear harvest on the Kenai Peninsula is sustainable. The BOG should note that total harvest for GMU 7 and 15 has sharply increased over the past few years; the 5 year average being 440 black bears. For the 2007/08 season, there were more black bears harvested (458) than moose (415).

Proposals 128-141 – Conditional Support

These proposals seek to change regulations so that a brown bear hunt on the Kenai Peninsula is essentially assured.

Rather than comment on the variety of ideas brought out in these proposals, the KBCS wants to remind the BOG that ADF&G has a "Kenai Peninsula Brown Bear Conservation Strategy" which was published in June 2000. This strategy was the product of a comprehensive review by ADF&G and a stakeholder committee regarding Kenai Peninsula brown bears with emphasis on human-bear interactions. We think this Conservation Strategy should provide the basis for addressing these proposals. The Conservation Strategy does accommodate a hunt for brown bears if human-caused mortality from DLP's and other causes is less than the annual sustainable harvest.

A key factor in this issue is the population estimate for Kenai Peninsula brown bears. KBCS recently had a membership meeting which featured ADF&G biologists who gave a detailed review of the assumptions used for the population estimate. As a result of this presentation, we believe that the population of brown bears is now higher than originally assumed and KBCS does support amending the Conservation Strategy to reflect more current information using more accurate assumptions. A revised population estimate will probably reveal that a carefully organized draw hunt for brown bears can be sustainable even with the recent increase in human-caused mortality. In fact, if properly directed, a hunt might harvest bears that would otherwise become DLP's, an idea that has already been worked out in detail by ADF&G. Hunting, combined with other programs underway on the Kenai Peninsula (e.g. bear-resistant garbage containers) should allow opportunity for hunters, reduction of human-bear conflicts, and healthy, sustainable populations of brown bears.

While we support having a hunt that is sustainable, we do not support removing the "species of special concern" designation that applies to the Kenai Peninsula population of brown bears. This has been suggested by some proposals. Not only is this an over-reaction, but fails to recognize why this designation was made and that some of the threatening conditions still prevail. The designation was made because Kenai Peninsula brown bears are "vulnerable to a significant decline due to low numbers, restricted distribution, dependence on limited habitat resources, or sensitivity to environmental disturbance." We think having the "species of special concern" designation has successfully drawn attention to the management of Kenai Peninsula brown bears and is partially responsible for healthy populations that now allow having a hunt.

Also, we do not support any proposal that is or serves as a proxy for a predator control plan. Evidence has shown predator control needs to reduce predator populations by as much as 80% to be effective. This we consider unacceptable. Attached is a survey we took of those who attended the meeting previously referred which demonstrates that many in the Homer area also support having healthy populations of brown bears on the Kenai Peninsula.

Furthermore, the fact that there is an antlerless moose hunt for GMU 15C (Proposal 151) to "improve overall browse quality" indicates that moose mortality due to bear predation may be compensatory rather than additive. The limiting factor for moose in the Homer bench area is winter carrying capacity, particularly in winters with deep snows as the past few winters have been.

We appreciate having this opportunity to provide input to the BOG in its consideration of proposals for Southcentral Alaska.

Sincerely,


Roberta Highland, President

Kachemak Bay Conservation Society



Kenai Peninsula Brown Bear Survey

Survey Response : 80 surveys were handed out and 76 returned.
Note: not everyone answered each question to totals differ.

1. Attitude about Kenai Peninsula brown bears

Attitude	Response	
Enjoy bears	56	74 %
Enjoy bears but worry about problems	19	25 %
Do not enjoy bears	1	1 %
No particular feelings about bears		
Unsure		

2. Importance of a healthy brown bear population

Importance	Response	
Very	59	79 %
Quite	13	18 %
Somewhat	1	1 %
Not too	1	1 %
Not at all		
Unsure	1	1 %

3. Attitude about Kenai Peninsula brown bear population

Bear Numbers Should...	Response	
Increase	31	43 %
Stay the same	28	38 %
Decrease	4	5 %
No feelings		
Unsure	10	14 %

4. Was tonight's meeting valuable to you in learning to live with bears?

Interest Level	Response	
Very	29	41 %
Quite	24	33 %
Somewhat	19	18 %
Not too	5	7 %
Not at all	1	1 %
Unsure		

December 31, 2008

Tim Henricksen

PO Box 34632

Juneau Alaska 99803

To whom it may concern:

I am writing this letter to comment on the controversy surrounding the lawful taking of the light colored black bear in the Skagway game management area during the spring 2008 harvest season.

It is my understanding that although this bear has been identified by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game as being a "Light Colored Cinnamon phase bear", it is being referred to, by the uninformed public, as a "Spirit Bear".

This misinformed identification of the subject animal has led to an outcry by a faction of people categorically opposed to hunting in general and specifically opposed to hunting in areas they perceive to affect their personal well being. Based on nothing other than sentiment and personal pursuit these people request the protection of several poorly identified, common phases or variations, of the black bear, in a game management area they know little to nothing about.

I will not profess to be a game biologist however I have been intimately familiar with the Skagway, Dyea White Pass and Chilcoot Pass areas for over 50 years and have had direct access to hunt information of the area dating well into the 1910's or earlier. Based on this I suggest scientific evaluation of the area may indicate the present time to be one of the most prolific times for the Black bear species in the last century. I will not attempt to expound on the ramifications of game overpopulation however I will suggest that there are indications the Skagway area may not be far from this stage for the species.

It is my hope that the Alaska Department of Fish and Game will base their pending decision on whether to protect nebulous variations, of a common phase of the black bear, based on sound game management practices and biological facts rather than on the uninformed opinion of a vocal, non hunting, special interest group.

Sincerely,

H Tim Henricksen

Juneau, Alaska

907 321-5921

Comments to the Board of GameProposal 117 – 5AAC 85.065 Seaducks – SUPPORT AS AMENDED

The intent of this proposal is to request the Board of Game to begin the process of allowing the State of Alaska the opportunity to create a Seaduck Management Plan Framework to augment Federal Management.

A list of considerations in this Plan can include:

1. Estimated population Densities of each species within Each GMU
2. Minimum acceptable biomass level of each Species in each GMU;
3. Maximum allowable exploitation rate of each species in each GMU;
4. Maintenance of geographic distribution of each species in each GMU
5. Minimum thresholds for implementation of commercial guided and non commercial hunting;
6. Age and sex composition;
7. Sensitive K – selected reproductive strategies
8. Winter ice minimizing wintering areas hunted;
9. Methods and means;
10. Guided hunting;
11. Full accountability of crippling mortality (60% crippling loss);
12. Trophy hunting;
13. Wanton waste – palatability;
14. Habitat alteration;
15. Potential user group conflicts;
16. The ecosystem function of target species and their prey;
17. Individual Species behaviour; (tight rafting, site fidelity, low flight, difficulty in take off, tame;
18. Individual Species food preference;
19. Geographic characteristics, (narrow bays, open ocean etc);
20. Segregation of species within bays;
21. Meteorological patterns impacting wintering survival
22. Meteorological patterns impacting nesting survival
23. Climate change – ice pack concerns
24. Interactions of users
25. Reporting requirements for guided hunting
26. Presence of endangered Seaduck species in specific GMU's
27. Areas of Refuge
28. Ballistics
29. Gender based bag limits
30. Disturbance

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BOARD

G. Nancy J. St. John

Public Comment # 98



This Plan can begin a State baseline that separates and understands the unique individual species of Tribe Mergini, their behaviours, characteristics, user groups and geographic locations impacting this Alaskan wildlife. It can also document the immense difference of these species as compared to Dabbling ducks Tribe Anatini, or bay ducks, (Tribe Aythyini). Presently we have little differentiation between these vastly different tribes. Bag limits are arbitrary.

The Federal management by the Service Regulation Committee in Washington DC is very broad. Information to ensure sustainability is vague and unknown. Individual species, their specific ranges, behaviours etc. are grouped together in the aggregate so the potential for localized depletions is very high and go unnoticed.

This very broad minimal Federal framework allows our state to fine tune special Alaskan requirements for a more quality oversight to species.
For instance:

Federal "Scoter" management would consider Alaskan:

1. Black Scoter
2. White-winged Scoter
3. Surf Scoter

Federal "Eider" management would consider Alaskan:

1. King Eider
2. Common Eider
3. Spectacled Eider (endangered)
4. Stellers Eider (endangered)

Federal "Goldeneye" management would consider Alaskan:

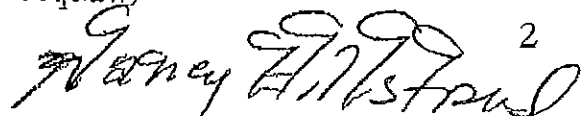
1. Barrows Goldeneye (very limited west coast range)
2. Common Goldeneye (wide North American range)
3. Bufflehead

Federal "Merganser" management would consider Alaskan:

1. Common Merganser
2. Red Breasted Merganser
3. Hooded Merganser

"Harlequin Duck"

"Long-tailed duck" (previously Oldsquaw)



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Other states in the Pacific Flyway embrace this opportunity to participate in specialized State management of their waterfowl species. This safeguards sustainability for special circumstances pertaining to localized areas and regional idiosyncrasies.

An Alaskan Seaduck Management Plan would bring State oversight to our little understood local populations. It can be used as a tool to fill the present void of information, to educate, guide and alert local managers in coastal GMU's. Potential problems such as localized depletions can be averted in our unique harsh upper latitudes.

Thank-you for your consideration to upgrade the quality of management of our diverse Alaskan Waterfowl.

Nancy Hillstrand
P.O. Box 674
Homer Alaska 99603

Nancy Hillstrand
907-399-7777

February 13, 2009

Alaska Department of Fish and Game
P. O. Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526
FAX 907-465-6094

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BOARDS
ANCHORAGE

*Attn: Scott
BOG
Public Comments*

Attention: Board of Game

Re: Spring Meeting: 2009

Dear Board Members:

*Andrew Josephson
AWA President*

The Alaska Wildlife Alliance offers comments on the proposals listed below.

Proposals 1, 2, and 3. Oppose. These three proposals would expand brown bear hunting in Chugach State Park. The AWA opposes these proposals. Bear attacks in Anchorage present a public safety issue in an urban area. As such they should be treated as a safety issue, not an opportunity for hunters to increase their opportunities for enjoying their sport. Professionals, such as ADF&G biologists, should selectively kill problem bears, when and if circumstances indicate that there may be a threat. The rest of the bears, especially those deep in Chugach State Park, should be left for wildlife viewing.

Proposal 4. Oppose. This proposal would expand hunting for mountain goats in areas close to Anchorage, including Chugach State Park. Mountain goats are one of the most sought after animals for viewing. While the population may tolerate a small amount of hunting, the hunting of these beautiful animals should be tightly regulated with permit only hunts.

Proposal 5. Oppose. This puts the question of hunting in what amounts to the Anchorage Bowl out of the hands of the citizens of Anchorage. The writer has driven in Anchorage for 44 years without a moose-car collision. People like seeing moose in the city. Oppose.

Proposal 6. Conditional non-opposition. The AWA oppose moose hunts in Anchorage Management Area, but does not oppose this proposal as it affects other parts of Unit 14(c).

Proposal 7. Oppose. Generally, the AWA would defer to the military on this question, however the proposal indicates that current populations are below population objectives.

Proposal 8. Oppose. Anecdotally, the majority of Anchorage citizens do not want a hunt in the Bowl and do not believe that there are too many moose.

Proposal 9. Support. AWA is non-opposed to this proposal.

Proposal 10. Oppose. The statistics provided are old and speculate about harsh winters that may or may not come. Generally the AWA would defer to the military, however not on this proposal.

Proposal 11. Oppose. A recent Anchorage Daily News article expressed concern with the impact on hunting trails in the Upper Ship Creek area due to packing of horses by hunters. It is believed that trail impact will not be minimal.

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Proposal 12. Opposed. The data provided suggest that moose are struggling in the area and that the carrying capacity cannot support hunting at this time.

Proposals 13-17. Partially support. These five proposals are aimed at reducing the opportunity for non-residents to obtain highly prized permits to hunt Dall sheep in Unit 14C. This unit consists primarily of Chugach State Park. The AWA's focus is on the wildlife, not allocation issues, and ordinarily avoids getting involved in allocation issues. The AWA supports limiting non resident permits in Chugach State Park, however. Chugach State Park is well managed, and sheep hunting permits very highly sought after. The secret is that motorized access is either highly controlled, as at Eklutna Lake, or prohibited entirely, as in the upper reaches of Ship Creek. The AWA wishes to support hunters who are conservation minded, and imagines that resident sheep hunters who compete for sheep hunting permits in 14C must be conservation minded since they wish to hunt in an area where there are no roads, ATV trails, etc.

Proposal 18. Oppose. This proposal would change the permit requirements for bow hunting of Dall sheep so as to restrict bow hunters to full curl rams only. The targeting of only full curl rams so as to provide a higher level of hunter opportunity is a bad idea. This type of selective hunting will cause (and already has caused) permanent damage to the sheep gene pool. FOREVER. Full curl horn rules are Darwin in reverse, where breeding by the strong and large is discouraged, while breeding by the small and weak is encouraged. Shame on the Alaska Outdoor Council and the proponent of this proposal for putting their sport ahead of the interests of Alaska's wildlife heritage.

Proposal 19. Support.

Proposals 20, 21, and 23. Support. These proposals would provide for increased buffer zones in Unit 14(c), where trapping would be prohibited. Buffers would be established (or increased) in the vicinity of developed trails, roads, and communities. Chugach State Park is heavily used by recreational non-consumptive users, many of whom hike and ski with their dogs. Anchorage is an urban area, and it is time that its "neighborhood" park is treated as such. In other words, trapping, if done at all, should be far removed from areas heavily used by hikers and skiers. As long as trapping is allowed close to trails, roads, and communities, these areas are effectively closed to responsible pet owners during trapping season. There are only a few trappers using Chugach State Park, and they are vastly outnumbered by hikers and skiers. It is time for change in this neighborhood park.

Proposal 22. Support. This proposal would ban lynx trapping in Chugach State Park. Lynx are a highly valued animal for wildlife viewing, and

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trapping lynx reduces wildlife viewing opportunities for the thousands of people who hike and ski in the Park. These thousands vastly outnumber the trappers who seek to appropriate these beautiful animals for their personal, exclusive, use. We live in a democracy where the majority's interests should be respected. Furthermore, lynx traps pose a threat to hikers and skiers who use the park with their dogs. Chugach State Park is a neighborhood park, on the edge of a modern urban area. Wildlife within it should be managed with this perspective, and not with nostalgia for the days when Anchorage was America's frontier.

Proposals 24, 25, 26, 27, and 28. Support. These proposals would ban trapping of wolverine in Chugach State Park. The Board made a severe error in authorizing wolverine trapping when it met in 2007. It is time to correct the error for all the reasons mentioned by the proponents of these five proposals. Proposal 25 would not only ban trapping of wolverine in Chugach State Park but also the trapping of coyotes. The AWA supports the prohibition of coyote trapping within Chugach State Park for the reasons expressed above: namely that Chugach State Park is a "neighborhood" park, visited by thousands of hikers and skiers, many with dogs. As such, traps and trapping are inappropriate uses.

Proposal 29. Support. AWA supports this proposal.

Proposal 30. Support. AWA supports this proposal

Proposal 31. Support. AWA supports this proposal.

Proposal 32. Oppose. The AWA asserts that, according to the proposal, hunters are underutilizing what is currently available. Under the AWA view, it makes no sense to increase the take where there is a lack of interest in what is available. Further, the AWA does not generally prioritize the interests of out-of-state, Big Game hunters, although it is aware that there is economic value there.

Proposal 33. Oppose. For the reasons outlined in Proposal 32.

Proposal 34. Oppose. If for no other reason, the Proposal is not well-explained or justified.

Proposal 35. Oppose. The AWA does not support predator control except in extreme emergency situations. The proposal concedes that "it is not known if additional bear harvest would increase dusky goose productivity."

Proposal 36. Support. The AWA is, first and foremost, concerned with maintaining healthy populations, the apparent objective of the proposal as written.

Proposal 37. Oppose. This proposal would authorize a lynx trapping season in Unit 6, i.e. Prince William Sound, where it is presently closed. The proponent argues that since lynx hunting is permitted, so also should trapping. The AWA opposes this proposal because trapping (under state law) would dramatically increase the taking of lynx. If there is to be state authorized trapping, then it must be coordinated with federal subsistence trapping, with federal subsistence having the priority.

Proposal 38. No Comment. The AWA expresses no comment.

Proposals 39, 40 and 41. Support. These proposals would re-authorize antlerless moose hunts in Unit 6. The AWA is concerned about targeting only

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large bull moose, and thus supports antlerless hunts, as long as there is no over harvest. The AWA does express some concerns, however, with the fact that (Proposals 39 and 41) the census objective is not currently reached.

Proposal 42. Support. The AWA ardently supports this proposal.

Proposal 43. Support. The AWA ardently supports this proposal.

Proposal 44. Support. The AWA supports this proposal.

Proposal 45. Support. The AWA supports this proposal.

Proposal 46. Oppose. The AWA opposes this proposal, although as a policy question, an expression of local concern is respected and appreciated.

Proposal 47. Oppose. The proposal concedes that "there is no hard population data [] available."

Proposal 48. The AWA offers no comment.

Proposal 49. Oppose. The AWA strongly opposes the proposal, particularly that part of the proposal that indicates that there would be "no limit to the number of brown bears taken by an individual permittee." The AWA opposes predator control except in extreme cases and emergencies.

Proposal 50. The AWA supports the program as to Unit 17B and opposes the program as to Unit 17C. Unit 17C purportedly has healthy moose populations.

Proposal 51. Support. The AWA supports this proposal.

Proposal 52. Oppose. The proposal speaks to the potentiality of drops in the moose populations in the area indicated. The proposal seeks to take bears at their most vulnerable when they are feeding on moose carcasses. The proposal seeks the deliberate taking of the largest of the brown bear species. The AWA opposes this proposal.

Proposal 53. Support. This proposal would close the hunting season for Unit 9D caribou. Radical wolf control was found by the Department to be necessary to prevent the elimination of the Southern Peninsula Caribou herd. This radical control program involved the killing of all wolves in the area. If such a radical program was found necessary, then so also should caribou hunting be ended, until the herd recovers.

Proposal 54. Support. This proposal would close the hunting season for caribou on Unimak Island due to sharp declines in population and calf recruitment. The AWA supports efforts by the ADF&G to preserve Alaska's wildlife, and this appears to be a meritorious effort.

Proposal 55. Support. This proposal would replace the unrealistic population goals (set in 2001) for the Mulchatna caribou herd with lower goals. The AWA notes that the population goals for many herds are unrealistic, and fail to take into consideration fluctuations that are part of nature. This is a problem because if a population objective is not met, then intensive game management must be considered. The AWA is glad that the goal for the Mulchatna caribou is being adjusted downward.

Proposal 56. The AWA offers no comment to this proposal.

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Proposal 57. Support. The AWA supports this proposal.

Proposal 58. Support. The AWA strongly supports this sensible proposal.

Proposal 59. Support. The AWA supports this proposal.

Proposal 60. Oppose. The AWA opposes this proposal.

Proposal 61. AWA makes no comment on this proposal.

Proposal 62. AWA makes no comment on this proposal.

Proposal 63. Oppose. The AWA opposes this proposal.

Proposal 64. Support. The AWA supports this proposal.

Proposal 65. Oppose. The AWA publicly supported this measure earlier in 2008, however, it believes that the culling of predators should have been completed at this time and a greater balance achieved.

Proposal 66. Oppose. The AWA believes that the proposal of 10 wolves per day is excessive.

Proposal 67. Support. The AWA supports this proposal.

Proposal 68. The AWA supports the proposal as to Unit 17B and strongly opposes it as to Unit 17C.

Proposal 69. Oppose. The proposal, as written, lacks scientific justification and sufficient explanation.

Proposal 70. Partially support. This proposal would shorten the rock ptarmigan hunting season in Unit 13 D due to low dramatic population declines. The AWA notes with distress that the ADF&G has observed NO rock ptarmigan in 13D during the last two surveys. Rather than shortening the season, the season in 13D should be closed. Entirely. As regards the remainder of Unit 13, the ADF&G notes much higher populations of ptarmigan in non-hunted areas such as Chugach State Park and notes that increased hunting may not be sustainable. For these reasons the AWA urges the Board to reduce, rather than expand hunting of ptarmigan throughout Unit 13.

Proposal 71. Support. The AWA supports the proposal.

Proposal 72. Oppose. The AWA opposes this proposal.

Proposal 73. Oppose. The justification made is that hunting is "difficult". The AWA opposes the proposal.

Proposal 74. Oppose. The AWA strongly opposes this measure. It is entirely inconsistent with what others report in their own proposals about the health of black bear populations in the area indicated.

Proposal 75. Oppose. AWA Strongly opposes this proposal.

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Proposal 76. Oppose. The AWA opposes this measure. There is a lack of scientific justification and explanation provided by the proposal.

Proposal 77. Support. The AWA supports this measure.

Proposal 78. Support. The AWA supports this measure.

Proposal 79. Oppose. The AWA opposes this measure. There is a lack of scientific justification and explanation provided by the proposal. It is unclear what allowing hunting, beyond the Unit 13 bag limit, has to do with preserving prey in Unit 13?

Proposal 80. Oppose. The Anchorage Advisory Commission speaks to this area as isolated an an "untapped resource." Given that State policy allows hunting virtually everywhere in Alaska, and hunting of nearly everything except marine mammals, it is not unreasonable to have a limited area hunting restricted.

Proposal 81. Support.

Proposal 82. Oppose. The AWA opposes measures that do not require the taking of the entire animal under principles of wanton waste and failure to salvage.

Proposal 83. Oppose. The AWA opposes measures that do not require the taking of the entire animal under principles of wanton waste and failure to salvage.

Proposal 84. AWA offers no comment. Philosophical support for subsistence.

Proposal 85. Oppose. The AWA has great respect and values the comments of first nations peoples. The concern with destruction of a potential artwork is considered, however the AWA opposes at this time.

Proposal 86. No comment. AWA offers no comment to this proposal but is sympathetic to rural subsistence and first nation's interests.

Proposal 87. No comment.

Proposal 88. No comment. Philosophical support for subsistence.

Proposal 89. No comment. Philosophical support for subsistence.

Proposal 90. No comment. Philosophical support for subsistence.

Proposal 91. Oppose. The AWA opposes measure that do not require the taking of the entire animal under principles of wanton waste and failure to salvage

Proposal 92. Oppose. The AWA opposes measures that do not require the taking of the entire animal under principles of wanton waste and failure to salvage.

Proposal 93. Oppose. The AWA opposes measures that do not require the taking of the entire animal under principles of wanton waste and failure to salvage.

Proposal 94. AWA offers no comment to this proposal but is sympathetic to rural subsistence and first nation's interests.

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Proposal 95. Oppose. The AWA is concerned that, where objectives have been met due to successful predator control efforts, the animals will then be culled excessively, the required census will not be met, and predators will once again be blamed. The predators will lose each time. The AWA does not view "underutilization" as a reason for necessarily increasing the hunt in a given area.

Proposal 96. Philosophical support for subsistence. This proposal asks for comments on whether a harvest of 600 moose in Unit 13 is sufficient for subsistence. If the harvestable surplus exceeds 600 moose, then the Board is required to issue sport permits. The AWA generally opposes radical manipulation of wildlife populations for the sole purpose of increasing moose and caribou populations. Furthermore, the AWA notes that the subsistence hunter is a meat hunter, and thus his/her focus is not on the largest trophy. Trophy hunting is harmful to wildlife since the largest male breeders are unnecessarily targeted (negatively impacting the gene pool), and since trophy hunters tear up the countryside driving ATV's all over the place looking for that rare moose that has a large enough rack to be taken.

Proposal 97. Oppose. The AWA strives for a wildlife balance. Predators are blamed for the taking of prey (caribou, moose, etc.) which they need to survive. Opening up the area for non-residents will make the prey, more and more, the culprit. We are told there are not enough moose for Alaskans--why, then, should we open up the hunt to 300,000,000 other Americans?

Proposal 98. The AWA offers no comment.

Proposal 99. Oppose. The AWA strives for a wildlife balance. Predators are blamed for the taking of prey (caribou, moose, etc.) which they need to survive. Opening up the area for non-residents will make the prey, more and more, the culprit. We are told there are not enough moose for Alaskans--why, then, should we open up the hunt to 300,000,000 other Americans?

Proposal 100. The AWA offers no comment to this proposal.

Proposal 101. Oppose. This proposal would authorize a non-resident moose hunt in Unit 13D. With moose hunting opportunities restricted in Southcentral Alaska, there is no reason why non-resident moose hunters should be invited to hunt in Unit 13D. The focus should be on the wildlife, not on how professional guides can make a living.

Proposal 102. Oppose. The AWA strives for a wildlife balance. Predators are blamed for the taking of prey (caribou, moose, etc.) which they need to survive. Opening up the area for non-residents will make the prey, more and more, the culprit. We are told there are not enough moose for Alaskans--why, then, should we open up the hunt to 300,000,000 other Americans?

Proposal 103. Oppose. The AWA strives for a wildlife balance. Predators are blamed for the taking of prey (caribou, moose, etc.) which they need to survive. Opening up the area for non-residents will make the prey, more and more, the culprit. We are told there are not enough moose for Alaskans--why, then, should we open up the hunt to 300,000,000 other Americans?

Proposals 104 and 105. Oppose. These proposals regarding Unit 11 would replace 3/4 curl requirements for Dall Sheep with full curl requirements. The issue is this: "Hunter opportunity" should not be the foremost goal of

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the ADF&G. Instead what should be foremost is the conservation of Alaska's wildlife. By restricting the sheep that may be taken to those with full curl horns, the Department can put more hunters in the field, than if it authorizes the taking of any male, or a male with 3/4 curl horns. But by selectively harvesting only the largest and oldest sheep, the gene pool is unnaturally impacted. Negatively. Darwin in reverse. If the Department is serious about its mission, then it will recognize the damage that is done to the gene pool of Alaska's sheep by the full curl rule, and remove it. Needless to say, the number of permits will need to be lessened if "any male" may be taken. But it is time that this issue is faced, and Alaska's wildlife preserved.

Proposals 106 and 107. Partially oppose. These proposals would authorize archery hunts for Dall Sheep in Units 14A and 13D, but apparently would target only full curl rams. The AWA opposes the targeting of only the oldest and largest breeding males. Furthermore, the AWA does not support non-resident hunts when Alaskans cannot obtain permits. The wildlife should have the highest priority, followed by Alaskan hunters. Lastly should be interests of non-residents, and professional guides who wish to supplement their income.

Proposal 108. No comment.

Proposal 109. Support.

Proposal 110. Support. This proposal would prohibit the use of aircraft in Unit 13 for locating wildlife, and make all of Unit 14C a restricted use area where motorized vehicles cannot be used in hunting. The AWA supports fair chase ethics, and thus supports the restriction proposed for Unit 13. As regards 14C, the AWA notes that Chugach State Park sheep permits are very highly prized because access within the Park is already sharply restricted. In other words, many hunters prefer the more traditional type of hunt offered in CSP. Restrictions on motorized access throughout all of 14C might be unrealistic, but should be enacted for areas such as the Hunter Creek drainages.

Proposal 111. Opposed. The AWA opposes this proposal.

Proposal 112. Support. The AWA supports this proposal.

Proposal 113. Support. The AWA supports this proposal.

Proposal 114. Opposed. The AWA opposes this proposal.

Proposal 115. No comment. AWA offers no comment.

Proposal 116. Support. The AWA strongly supports this proposal.

Proposal 117. Support. The AWA supports this proposal.

Proposal 118. Support. The AWA supports this proposal.

Proposal 119. Opposed. The AWA opposes this proposal. No information is provided that indicates the population can support the increase in hunting opportunity.

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Proposal 120. Support. This proposal would close beaver trapping in a portion of Unit 15 near Homer. The proposal is made by Mildred Martin, an elected representative on the Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly. It is a well-thought-out proposal, with its focus on education, protections of fish habitat, and reducing the indiscriminate shooting of beaver for no purpose. As such it shows an appropriate respect for Alaska's wildlife, and the interests of a broad spectrum of Alaskans.

Proposal 121. Support. This proposal would close trapping of Red Fox on the Kenai Peninsula. (Units 7 & 15); furthermore it asks that the Board of Game consider restrictions on trapping of Red Fox in Unit 14C. The proposal is by the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge. The Kenai Red Fox may be a unique subspecies, and its numbers are reported to be very low. Continued survival of the Kenai Red Fox (if it is a subspecies) is apparently threatened by trapping. If the Kenai Red Fox is a distinct subspecies, then federal law, the Alaska constitution, and Alaska's statutes mandate that trapping of these animals be discontinued. The AWA urges caution and conservation. Thus, the AWA urges the Board of Game to prohibit trapping of Red Fox throughout Unit 14C since Chugach State Park and other parts of 14C may serve as a source for natural immigration to the Kenai Peninsula. More information is needed before trapping of Red Fox in this part of Alaska should be authorized.

Proposal 122. Support. This proposal would reduce the bag limit for marten trappers on the Kenai Peninsula. The Kenai Peninsula has become more urbanized over the years, and there are reported to be localized depletions in marten populations. Marten are beautiful, if rarely seen animals: watchable wildlife. There is no reason why marten trappers should be allowed to take more than two marten annually given these circumstances. There are many Alaskans who prize these animals and would appreciate a greater abundance.

Proposal 123. Support but with additional restrictions. This proposal would shorten the season and set the bag limit for wolverine at two per season. The Board's authorization of wolverine trapping in Chugach State Park and the disclosure of population figures for Unit 14C make clear that the ADF&G has overlooked this rare animal in recent years. Indeed, population densities of wolverine throughout Southcentral Alaska may be very low compared to natural population densities. For this reason, the AWA urges a closure of all wolverine trapping on the Kenai Peninsula, as well as in Chugach State Park (and other parts of Unit 14C) until more information can be gathered, and the survival of natural populations continued indefinitely.

Proposal 124. Opposes. The AWA opposes this proposal. Read literally, it seems to say that the hunter can choose not to take meat from the killsite.

Proposals 125, 126, 127, and 128. Oppose. These proposals would authorize the sale of hides, increase bag limits, lengthen seasons, and increase the baiting season for black bear. They would be applicable to the Kenai Peninsula, and reflect the view that black bears are vermin. We at the Alaska Wildlife Alliance have a greater appreciation for wildlife, including black bears.

Proposal 129. Oppose. The AWA does not oppose the taking of a true DLP bear. However, the Kenai population cannot be sustained and will be eliminated if this sort of proposal is passed.

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The Kenai's local governments need to do more to deal with their garbage, landfills, fish carcasses, and the like. This will be more effective.

Proposals 130-141. Oppose. The proposals would increase hunting of brown bears on the Kenai Peninsula. Wildlife viewing is an increasingly treasured activity for the majority of Alaskans who enjoy fishing, rafting, boating, hiking, and camping on the Kenai Peninsula. The interests of a handful of hunters should not outweigh the interests of the majority.

Proposal 142. Support but with additional restrictions. This proposal, by the ADF&G, would penalize a hunter who takes a nanny goat by prohibiting the hunter from taking a goat on the Kenai for the next five years. This is a good idea, but in light of reported declining goat populations, there should be additional restrictions on goat hunting in general. Hunter opportunity should not take precedence over maintaining healthy wildlife populations.

Proposal 143. Oppose. The AWA opposes this proposal.

Proposal 144. Oppose. This proposal would authorize goat hunting on Mt. Marathon, above Seward. Hundreds (if not thousands) of Alaskans and visitors climb the false peak of Mt. Marathon every year. Not far above the false peak (where the runner turn) the ridge narrows, and the terrain becomes more difficult. Goats can be found here, and seeing one is a great thrill for those hikers who make the effort. Killing these beautiful animals at this location would be an extraordinary waste of a beautiful resource.

Proposal 145. Support. This proposal would aid enforcement of moose hunting regulations by requiring the sealing of moose antlers. The AWA supports efforts to catch and prosecute hunters who don't follow the rules.

Proposal 146. Oppose. This proposal is not well-explained, among other concerns

Proposal 147. Support. This proposal by the Seward Advisory Committee would establish a moratorium on moose hunting in Units 7 and 15A until the moose population increases. The AWA supports responsible proposals to conserve Alaska's wildlife, and this appears to be such a proposal.

Proposal 148. The AWA offers no comment on this proposal.

Proposal 149. Support. The AWA supports this proposal.

Proposal 150-153. Partial Opposition. These three proposals by the ADF&G concern moose hunting in Units 15B, 15C, and 15A. As regards 15A, the proposal by the Seward Advisory Committee appears more responsible. As regards 15B and 15C, the AWA is concerned about targeting the biggest and oldest males. As discussed above, the result is "Darwin in reverse". It is time the Department to take a hard look at this issue, and give conservation a greater value than that given to the acquisition of trophies.

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PROPOSAL 153 - 5 AAC 92.125. Predation control areas implementation plans. Establish a wolf control plan for Units 7 and 15 as follows:

Wolves: Allow the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to reduce wolf populations using any and all practical means possible.

STRONGLY OPPOSE for obvious reasons. Includes aerial hunting

PROPOSAL 154 - 5 AAC 92.125. Predation Control Areas

Implementation Plans. Implement a predation control area for Unit 15 as follows:

Units 15A and 15C shall be managed under intensive management practices for predator control.

Proposal 155: Oppose. The AWA opposes this proposal.

Proposal 156. Oppose. This proposal would authorize hunting within the Seward City limits. Most Seward residents we know would oppose this if they knew about it.

STRONGLY OPPOSE for obvious reasons. Includes aerial hunting.

Proposal 157. Oppose. The AWA opposes this proposal because it is not clear what the current season is for furbear trapping on the Kenai Peninsula.

PROPOSAL 158 - 5 AAC 92.052. Discretionary permit hunt conditions and procedures; and 92.165.

Sealing of bear skins and skulls. Modify the brown bear permit conditions for Unit 8 as follows:

Alaskan resident hunters: Drawing permits and sealing can be obtained at your local Department of Fish and Game offices in Homer, Kenai, Seward or Anchorage for brown bear hunters in Unit 8.

NEUTRAL. May cause more bureaucracy by decentralizing process.

PROPOSAL 159 - 5 AAC 85.025. Hunting seasons and bag limits for caribou. Modify the bag limit for caribou in Unit 8 as follows:

Bag limit of one caribou per hunter, per year in Unit 8.

Open season dates: September 1 to October 31.

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Retain same-day-airborne regulation.

SUPPORT as these are feral caribou and presently there is no closed season or bag limit.

PROPOSAL 160 - 5 AAC 85.025. Hunting seasons and bag limits for caribou, and 92.085(8)(5).

Unlawful methods of taking big game; exceptions. Modify the bag limit for caribou in Unit 8 and apply a same day airborne restriction as follows:

Bag limit of one caribou per hunter per year in Unit 8. No closed season. No same day airborne allowed.

SUPPORT as essentially same as #158 but for no closed season and no same-day airborne hunting.

PROPOSAL 161 - 5 AAC 92.010. Harvest tickets and reports; and 85.030. Hunting seasons and bag

limits for deer. Require harvest reporting for deer on the Kodiak archipelago as follows:

SUPPORT as it adds survey questions about cryptorchidism in the deer in this area for F&G use.

PROPOSAL 162 - 5 AAC 85.035. Hunting seasons and bag limits for elk. Create an archery only hunt in Unit 8 as follows:

SUPPORT in that it creates non-firearm season without changing harvest goal.

Proposal 163. Opposed without more evidence about census populations, historical trends in the area, etc.

Proposal 164. Opposed. The AWA opposes this proposal.

Proposal 165. Opposed. The AWA opposes this proposal.

PROPOSAL 166 - 5 AAC 92.125(d)(4) Predation Control Areas Implementation Plans. Modify the bear

baiting season and methods within the Unit 16 predator control area as follows:

1) Bear Baiting season open all summer, no closures. (Black bear baiting season open May 1st through

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October 31st.)

- 2) Bait stations must be at least 600ft from cabins.
- 3) Black Bears taken under predator control may be taken with snares.
- 4) Two Brown Bears maybe taken at Black Bear stations under predator control.

OPPOSE as it creates far too liberal a season and allows snaring.

.....
PROPOSAL 167 - 5 AAC 85.015. Hunting seasons and bag limits for black bear. Modify the bag limit for black bear in Unit 14A as follows:
 Increase the bag limit to 3 black bear per year in Unit 14A.

OPPOSE as there is no documented need to reduce black bear numbers in that area so drastically.

.....
PROPOSAL 168 - 5 AAC 92.125(d). Predation Control Areas Implementation Plans. Amend the Unit 16 predation control plan to include the use of helicopters, participation by youth and nonresidents, group maintenance of bait sites, and no closed season for black bear baiting.

OPPOSE as this is essentially an all-out assault on black bear in Unit 16 without regard to real management.

PROPOSAL 169 - 5AAC 92.125. Predation Control Areas Implementation Plans. Amend to allow more comprehensive youth participation in Unit 16 black bear management.

OPPOSE as this is partially covered in #168 and is already covered under state regs concerning hunting.

.....
Proposal 170. Oppose. This proposal would authorize the snaring and trapping of brown bears and black bears if authorized by a predator control permit. In recent years what is referred to as "predator control" has been used as an excuse to authorize unsportsmanlike, wasteful, and cruel practices outlawed many years ago throughout the civilized world, including Alaska. This proposal to snare and trap bears would authorize yet another unsportsmanlike, cruel and wasteful practice for which all Alaskans should hang their heads in shame; that is, if it should pass.

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PROPOSAL 171 - 5 AAC 92.125(d). Predation control areas implementation plans. Allow black bear trapping in the Unit 16 predation control area as follows:
Trapping of black bears is allowed.

OPPOSE as this uses snaring as harvest method for black bears.
.....
PROPOSAL 172 - 5 AAC 85.020. Hunting seasons and bag limits for brown bear, and 92.132. Bag limit for brown bears. Modify the bag limit for brown bear in Unit 14B as follows:
Resident and nonresidents: Unit 14B grizzly bear, one bear every year, September 1 through May 31.

NEUTRAL as it increases potential take but likely not by much.
.....
PROPOSAL 173 - 5 AAC 85.020. Hunting seasons and bag limits for brown bear. Modify the brown bear season dates for Unit 16A as follows:
Resident and nonresident: Unit 16A grizzly bear, -one bear every year, August 10-May 31.

SUPPORT as it standardizes bag limits to match adjacent areas without negatively affecting bear population.
.....
PROPOSAL 174 - 5 AAC 85.020. Hunting seasons and bag limits for brown bear. In Unit 16B alter this regulation for brown bear to provide the following:
Set the brown bear harvest regulations back to the pre-Intensive Management rule that provided for 1 bear every four years in a season starting September 1 to May 25 for that portion of Unit 16B that is in Denali National Preserve.

SUPPORT as it reduces bear take under Intensive Management.
.....
PROPOSAL 175 - 5 AAC 85.025. Hunting seasons and bag limits for caribou. Extend the caribou season in Unit 16B as follows:
Extend the caribou season in Unit 16B to end on October 5.

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OPPOSE as it increases likelihood meat taken will be inedible due to rutting season.

.....
Proposal 176. Oppose. The AWA opposes this measure/proposal.

Proposal 177. Oppose. This proposal would deplete the population quickly, and predators would then become the pariah.

PROPOSAL 178 - 5 AAC 085.045(12). Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Re-authorizes the drawing permit hunts for antlerless moose in Unit 14(A).

SUPPORT as it's pro forma for a moose hunt F&G approves.

.....
PROPOSAL 179 - 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Change the archery season

dates for Unit 14A and 14B as follows:

In Unit 14A and B: **Residents Nonresidents**

1 moose per regulatory year,
only as follows:

1 bull with spike-fork [AUG. 10 - AUG. 17] [AUG. 10 - AUG. 17]
antlers or 50-inch Nov. 1 - Nov. 7 Nov. 1 - Nov. 7

SUPPORT as it doesn't really change bag limits or such.

.....
PROPOSAL 180 - 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Delay the moose season

dates in Units 14B and 16A as follows.

Archery season: **August 20 - 28** [AUGUST 10-17]

General season: **September 1 - 25** [AUGUST 20 - SEPTEMBER 20]

SUPPORT as it doesn't change bag limits or methods.

.....
PROPOSALS 181, 182, 183

SUPPORT as these are mainly changing season opening dates and establishing a moose season on Kalgin Island.
.....

Proposal 184. Oppose. This proposal would establish full curl horn restrictions for Dall Sheep in Units 14A and 14B. As discussed above, the AWA believes that targeting the oldest and largest males results in "Darwin in reverse". It is time for change. The species, our wildlife heritage, should take precedence.

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Proposal 185. Oppose. This proposal would increase the wolf and coyote trapping season in Unit 16. There is no basis for an area wide lengthening of the season, and the only expressed reason for this proposal is to make it possible for a trapper using the Susitna as his "trap line" to use both sides of the river. Wildlife management should not be so focused on the ease of a handful of trappers using powerboats.

PROPOSAL 186 - 5 AAC 85.056. Hunting seasons and bag limits for wolf. Modify the season and bag limit for wolf in Unit 16B as follows:
Set the wolf harvest regulations back to the pre-Intensive Management rule that provided for 5 wolves in a season starting August 10 to April 30 for that portion of Unit 16B that is in Denali National Preserve.

SUPPORT as it reduces bag limit for trapping wolves in 16b.

.....
PROPOSAL 187 - 5 AAC 92.125(d). Predation Control Areas

Implementation Plans. Modify the predator control area in Unit 16 as follows:

Expand the predator control area to include all of Unit 16. Eliminate the arbitrary boundary dividing Unit 16A in half allowing the use of bear baiting in the fall.

OPPOSE as it opens all of Unit 16 to Intensive Management.

.....
PROPOSAL 188 - 5 AAC 92.125(d). Predation control areas

implementation plans. Modify the Unit 16 predation control plan as follows:

Under section (3)(A) of 92.125(d) "the objectives of the predation control program are to halt the decline of the moose population within the predation control area of Unit 16 and to increase the fall (post-hunt) moose population to the intensive management objective of 10,000- 11,500 [6,500- 7,500] moose, providing a sustainable annual harvest of 500- 960 [310-600] moose,"

SUPPORT as it clarifies the goal for moose populations in Unit 16.

.....
PROPOSAL 189 - 5 AAC 92.125(d). Predation Control Areas

Implementation Plans. Amend to extend the season for Unit 16 black bear management as follows:

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5 AAC 92.125(d) Unit 16 Predation Control Area

(4) the permissible methods and means used to take predators are as follows:

(D) the commissioner may reduce the black bear population within the Unit 16 Predation Control Area by

means and direction included in the Board of Game Bear Conservation and Management Policy (2006-164-

BOG), dated May 14, 2006, and incorporated by reference, including the following conditions, methods and

means under a department developed control permit:

(iii) same-day-airborne taking of black bears if the permittee is at least 300 feet from the aircraft, including the

use of any type of aircraft, including helicopters to access black bear baiting stations and associated camps

from April 15 through Oct 15;

(iv) sale of un-mounted, tanned black bear hides if the sale tag remains attached;

OPPOSE as it allows same-day as airborne black bear hunting and sale of the hides.

.....
PROPOSAL 190 - 5 AAC 92.039. Permit for taking wolves using aircraft; 92.044. Permit for hunting

black bear with the use of bait or scent lures; 92.068. Permit conditions for hunting black bear with dog;

92.080. Unlawful methods of taking game; exceptions;

92.085. Unlawful methods of taking big game, exceptions; 92.106.

Intensive management of identified

big game prey populations; 92.108. Identified big game prey populations and objectives; 92.110. Control

of predation by wolves; 92.115. Control of predation by bears; and

92.125. Predation Control Areas

Implementation Plans. Review intensive management options to be used by the Department of Fish and Game

or contracted government agents of the department.

The department is considering, but not necessarily recommending the following changes at this time:

1) Use of carbon monoxide cartridges as an option for euthanasia of wolves by government employees.

2) Use of helicopters by government employees to take wolves from the air or to transport employees to and

from the field to conduct wolf and bear management activities.

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3) Use of snares as a method to take black bear by government employees.

STRONGLY OPPOSE as it allows gassing of wolves, helicopter use to take wolves, black bear snaring.

.....
Proposal 191. AWA offers no comment.

PROPOSAL 192 - 5 AAC 92.039. Permit for taking wolves using aircraft; 92.080. Unlawful methods of taking game, exceptions; 92.115. Control of predation by bears; 92.110. Control of predation by wolves; and 92.125. Predation Control Areas Implementation Plans. Amend the necessary regulations to allow the use of helicopters to access black bear baiting stations and associated camps as follows:

92.039. Permit for taking wolves using aircraft. Add the words "and bears" to the title and subsequent references to wolves throughout this regulation.

92.080. Unlawful methods of taking game, exceptions
(3) knowingly, or with reason to know, with the use of a helicopter in any manner, including transportation to, or from the field of any unprocessed game or parts of game; any hunter or hunting gear, or any equipment used in the pursuit or retrieval of game; this paragraph does not apply to transportation of a hunter, hunting gear, or game during an emergency rescue operation in a life-threatening situation. **Nor does it apply to the use of helicopters under a permit within a predator control area identified in 5 AAC 92.125.**

92.110. Control of predation by wolves. The words "(including helicopters)" should be added after every reference to aircraft within this regulation.

92.115. Control of predation by bears. The words "(including helicopters)" should be added after every reference to aircraft within this regulation.

STRONGLY OPPOSE as it allows taking of wolves and bears by helicopter.

.....
PROPOSAL 193 - 5 AAC 92.540. Controlled use areas. Ban the use of motorized vehicles for hunting in Unit 14A as follows:

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Close the area known as the south side of government peak to the use of motorized vehicles for hunting.

Mirror the Department of Natural Resources regulations for the same area.

Publish in the hunting regulation

book. (Specific area is "RIET19N sections 27, 28, 29, 30, 31 and section 26 on the west side of Hatcher Pass Road.

SUPPORT as it closes 14a to the use of motorized vehicles in hunting.

Proposal 194 and 195. Oppose. These proposals would authorize a twelve month hunting season for coyote throughout all of Region II. There would be no bag limit. It is not clear from the two proposals, but it appears that the proposers, the Wild Sheep Foundation and the Anchorage Advisory Committee, would have the Board authorize coyote hunting, twelve months, 24/7 in areas generally closed to hunting: for instance, the Anchorage Management Area. The grounds for these extraordinary proposals are that purported threat of coyotes to sheep, and yet coyotes and sheep coexisted in Alaska for millenia without hunters protecting the sheep. If the Board is to adopt these radical proposals, care should be taken so that hunters do not hunt coyotes in areas heavily used by hikers: for instance, trails on the Anchorage Hillside, the Eagle River/Crow Pass trail, etc.

Proposal 196. Opposed. The AWA opposes this measure.

PROPOSAL 197 - 5 AAC 92.165. Sealing of bear skins and skulls.

Modify the black bear sealing

requirement for Region II Units as follows.

Exemption of sealing requirements for black bear harvested for human consumption by individuals not living on the road system.

OPPOSE as it eliminates effective statistic collection in black bear take in Region II.

PROPOSAL 198 - 5 AAC 92.044. Permit for hunting black bear with the use of bait or scent; lures.

Clarify and modify guided black bear baiting requirements for Region II Units as follows:

Option 1: "Wyoming System" A registered guide-outfitter may register and maintain up to two bait stations per contracted client annually. A licensed guide must accompany a client to the bait station and remain in contact (radio or otherwise) at all times.

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Option 2: A person may contract with a registered guide-outfitter to establish and maintain their bait stations

OPPOSE as it increases use of bear baiting by guides.

.....
PROPOSAL 199 - 5 AAC 85.015. Hunting seasons and bag limits for black bear. Lengthen the bear

baiting seasons for Units 7, 14, 15 and 16A as follows.

Areas open for bear baiting in Units 7, 14A, 14B, 15 and 16A: April 15 - June 30.

OPPOSE as it increases black bear take especially when sows may have cubs nearby but unnoticed.

.....
PROPOSAL 200 - 5 AAC 92.125. Predation Control Areas

Implementation Plans;

85.015. Hunting seasons and bag limits for black bear; and 5 AAC

85.020. Hunting seasons and bag

limits for brown bear. Amend the bag limits for bear as follows:

Black and brown bears taken in intensive/predator management areas in which they have been identified as a cause of the decline in game populations and in which seasons and bag limits have been liberalized to reduce bear numbers for the purpose of increased prey populations will not count against the annual bag limit in other units.

OPPOSE as it basically legitimizes an all-out assault on bears by giving "free bears" to hunters.

.....
PROPOSAL 201 - 5 AAC 92.130. Restrictions to bag limit. Require a

wounded brown bear to count against the bag limit as follows.

Wounding (drawing of blood) constitutes harvest of brown/grizzly bear in Units 6, 7, 9, 10, 15, and 17. If an animal is wounded, the hunter may continue to hunt for that animal but not another.

SUPPORT for it codifies the responsibility of hunters in regards to wounded bears.

.....
PROPOSAL 202 - 5 AAC. 92.015 Brown bear tag fee exemption.

Reauthorize the current resident tag fee

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exemptions for brown bear in Units 9B, D, E, 11, 13, 16, and 17.

(a) A resident tag is not required for taking a brown bear in the following units:

- (1) Unit 11;
- (2) Unit 13 and 16(A), that portion outside of Denali State Park;
- (3) Unit 16(B);

...
(b) In addition to the units as specified in (a) of this section, if a hunter obtains a subsistence registration permit before hunting, that hunter is not required to obtain a resident tag to take a brown bear in the following units:

- (1) Unit 9(B);
- (2) Unit 9(E), that portion including all drainages that drain into the Pacific Ocean between Cape Kumliun and the border of Unit 9(D) and Unit 9(E);
- (3) Unit 17

OPPOSE as it represents loss of revenue to the department at a time when budgets are being restricted.

.....
Proposal 203. AWA offers no comment on this proposal.

Proposal 204. Supports. AWA supports this proposal.

Proposal 205. Supports. This is complex, but a very interesting concept.

PROPOSAL 206 - 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Establish an archery moose

season for Units 7, 9, 11, 13, 14, 15 and 16 as follows:

Split the limit into two seasons:

1st season - September 20 to September 30

2nd Season - November 1 - November 10, and delete current early season

Also, make moose hunters choose to either hunt by rifle or bow (not both).

This can be done when purchasing their hunting license.

SUPPORT as long as it does not change bag limits.

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PROPOSAL 207 - 5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose. Establish a youth moose

hunt in various Region II Units, as follows:

I propose that the Board of Game authorize an "any moose draw, youth hunt" for Units 9, 11, 13, 14, 15, and 16 as follows: Starting the first Saturday after Christmas break, and continuing for the next 10 days. This hunt would be open to all youth age 10-16. These tags should be in addition to the tags that are currently being issued. Hunts in Unit 14C, should be under the direction of a professional guide or the Department of Fish and Game

NEUTRAL though provision removing tags for this purpose may cut into subsistence needs.

.....
Proposal 208. Oppose. This proposal would entirely eliminate the issuance of a few permits to hunt ewe sheep, in Units 7 and 14, instead restrict the taking of sheep to only full curl males. This proposal ignores the process of evolution discovered by Charles Darwin more than a century ago: namely, natural selection. In short, the Alaska Chapter Foundation of North American Wild Sheep for the sake of so-called "traditional" hunting, would continue to target the large, strong male breeding population, thus giving a breeding advantage to the smaller and weaker males. Alaska's wildlife heritage should be preserve by responsible management. It appears that the issuance of a limited number of permits for ewes is a responsible effort by the Department to remove some of the presure on the male breeding stock, and for that reason the Department should be supported.

Proposal 209. Oppose. This proposal is also by the Alaska Chapter of the FNWS, and would require that only full curl male sheep be taken. For the reasons expressed above, this proposal is destructive, and should not be adopted.

Proposal 210. Oppose. This proposal would establish an archery only hunt for sheep throughout Region II. While the AWA supports archery hunts because they incorporate high fair chase values, nevertheless, this proposal would restrict permit holders to full curl rams only. For the reasons expressed above, the targeting of full curl rams is a bad idea.

Proposal 211. Support. This proposal would establish archery only permit hunts after the close of the regular season. It appears that permit holders would not be required to take full curl rams. Archery only hunts place high value on fair chase ethics, and this proposal (because it is not restricted to full curl only) would do no damage to the gene pool. For these reasons, the AWA supports it: provided that areas otherwise closed, such as the Anchorage Management Area, are not opened.

Proposal 212. No comment.
Proposal 213. No comment.

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Proposal 214. No comment.
Proposal 215. No comment.

Proposal 216. Oppose. This proposal is another proposal by the Alaska Chapter of the FNWS to require that only full curl male sheep may be taken. For the reasons expressed above, this proposal should be rejected, and permits issued for smaller males, and a limited number of females; with the proviso that permit numbers be limited so that populations not be decreased by over hunting.

Proposal 217. No comment.
Proposal 218. No comment.
Proposal 219. No comment.
Proposal 220. No comment.

Proposal 221. Support. This proposal would modify the same day airborne restriction for hunting moose, caribou, sheep, and other game (except predators) throughout Region II. Currently, a hunter may not shoot an animal until 3 a.m. the day following his flight in. This is reportedly abused by hunters spotting animals late in the evening from a plane, landing, and shooting them early the next morning. This proposal would extend the start time to noon the next day, and deserves support as advancing fair chase ethics.

Proposal 222. Support. This proposal would require hunters to be at least 50 feet from their vehicles (cars, trucks, etc.) before shooting, and thus advances fair chase ethics.

Proposal 223. AWA offers no comment.

PROPOSAL 224 – 5 AAC 85.015. Hunting seasons and bag limits for black bear. Modify the regulation restricting the taking of white-phase black bear in Unit 1D as follows:
We strongly recommend the Board of Game to direct the Department of Fish and Game to work with legal and regulatory staff to develop language which will be enforceable in a court of law to the effect of **“A light-phase black bear that has cream coloration (or lighter) over more than 30% of its body may not be taken regardless of any other coloration.”**

SUPPORT as this is a rare color form of the black bear not found anywhere else and should be protected on that merit as well as for cultural reasons.
.....
PROPOSALS 225 and 226 deal with re-authorization of antlerless moose hunts in parts of the state. Proposals are being made by Dept. F&G.

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SUPPORT as the populations seem to allow such hunts.

PROPOSAL 227 - 5 AAC 92.015(a) (8) & (9) and 92.015 (b) (4), (7), (8) & (10) Brown bear tag fee

exemptions. Reauthorize the current resident tag fee exemptions for brown bear in Units 18, 22, 23 and 26A.

(a) A resident tag is not required for taking a brown bear in the following units:

- ...
- (8) Unit 22;
- (9) Unit 23;

(b) In addition to the units as specified in (a) of this section, if a hunter obtains a subsistence registration permit before hunting, that hunter is not required to obtain a resident tag to take a brown bear in the following units:

- ...
- (4) Unit 18;
- ...
- (7) Unit 22;
- (8) Unit 23;
- ...
- (10) Unit 26(A).

OPPOSE as it represents a loss of revenue at a time when state budgets are being restricted.

PROPOSALS 228 and 229 re-authorize antlerless moose hunts in parts of the state and are being proposed by the Dept. of F&G.

SUPPORT as the populations seem to allow such hunts.

PROPOSAL 230 - 5 AAC 92.025. Customary and traditional uses of game populations Revise the

Amount Necessary for Subsistence for moose in Unit 18. The Alaska Board of Game is requested to work with the department toward revising the existing Unit 18 Amount Necessary for Subsistence (ANS) for moose that is based upon the amounts needed for all the communities in Unit 18.

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SUPPORT as it provides needed data to determine bag limits.

.....
PROPOSALS 231 and 232 re-authorize antlerless moose hunts in parts of the state. Proposed by Dept. of F&G.

SUPPORT as populations seem to allow such hunts.

.....
PROPOSAL 233 – 5 AAC 92.015. Brown bear tag fee exemptions.

Reauthorize the current resident tag fee exemptions for general season brown bear in Units 19A, 19D, 20D, 20E (that portion outside of Yukon–Charley Rivers National Preserve), 21B, 21D, 21E, 25C, and 25D; and reauthorize the current subsistence registration permit tag fee exemptions for brown bear in Units 19A and 19B (downstream of and including the Aniak River drainage), 21D, and 24.

(a) A resident tag is not required for taking a brown bear in the following units:

- ...
- (4) Unit 19(A) and Unit 19(D);
- (5) Unit 20(D);
- (6) Unit 20(E), that portion outside of Yukon–Charley Rivers National Preserve;
- (7) Unit 21(B), Unit 21(D), and Unit 21(E);

...

- (10) Unit 25(C) and Unit 25(D).

(b) In addition to the units as specified in (a) of this section, if a hunter obtains a subsistence registration permit before hunting, that hunter is not required to obtain a resident tag to take a brown bear in the following units:

- ...
- (5) Units 19(A) and 19(B), that portion downstream of and including the Aniak River drainage;
- (6) Unit 21(D);

...

- (9) Unit 24;

OPPOSE as it represents a loss of revenue at a time when state budgets are being restricted.
.....

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PROPOSAL 234 re-authorizes antlerless moose hunts in sections of GMU 20. Proposed by Dept. of F&G.

SUPPORT as populations seem to allow such hunts.

.....
PROPOSAL 235 - 5 AAC 92.125(e). Predation control areas implementation plans. Extend the Unit

19A predator control plan as follows:

The predator management program for Unit 19A will be reauthorized for six years. This program will start

July 1, 2009 and expire June 30, 2015. The reason for this number of years is that the program will then expire

on a year when Unit 19 will be on the Board of Game meeting cycle.

STRONGLY OPPOSE as it is a continuation of aerial hunting.

.....
PROPOSAL 236 - 5 AAC 92.125(f). Predation control areas implementation plans. Extend the Unit 19D

predator control plan as follows:

Extend the wolf control program in Unit 19D for another five years. If the population goals are reached before

the end of this period it can be ended. The wolves will not be threatened by this action because they will

quickly learn to take advantage of the denser cover. The number of permittees who want to hunt here will also

be low but some harvest of wolves is better than no harvest. It will also slow the recovery of wolf packs in the

Experimental Micro Management Area (EMMA) to better insure that moose population goals are reached.

STRONGLY OPPOSE as it is a continuation of aerial hunting. (Too, if as the proposal disingenuously argues, the wolves will quickly learn to use cover then it is useless to have it in place.)

.....
PROPOSAL 237 - 5 AAC. 92.125. Predation control areas implementation plans. Modify the predation

control plan for Unit 20E to provide the following:

Under a bear control permit, allow the following: 1.) taking of all sex-age classes of both brown and black

bears; 2.) the use of bear snares for taking bears; 3.) taking of bears same-day-airborne; 4.) sale of tanned and

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untanned hides and skulls from bears taken in the control program. Establish a working group to develop recommendations on methods, means and protocol for carrying out the bear control program. This working group should include members of local advisory committees, public sportsman's organizations including the Alaska Outdoor Council, and the Department of Fish and Game research and management staff.

STRONGLY OPPOSE as this constitutes all-out slaughter allowing any bear of any age or sex to be taken by snare and other normally repugnant means.

.....
PROPOSAL 238 - 5 AAC 92.125. Predation control areas implementation plans. Amend the regulation

to provide the following:

Adopt a wolf predation control plan for Unit 21E which can be implemented right away instead of waiting two more years for the Board of game to meet after the intensive management plan has been drafted and adopted.

STRONGLY OPPOSE as this institutes aerial hunting in yet another section of the state.

.....
PROPOSAL 239 - 5AAC 92.125. Predation Control Areas

Implementation Plans. Establish a Unit 21E

predation control implementation plan as follows, with a delayed effective date of July 1, 2010 and with

implementation of wolf control activities only if the moose population declines below the current level. The

Adaptive Plan for Intensive Management of Moose in Unit 21(E) that is referenced in the proposal will be

available for review on the department's web site in late January 2009.

STRONGLY OPPOSE..see above opposition for Proposal 238.

.....
PROPOSAL 240 - 5 AAC 92.050. Required permit hunt conditions and procedures. Increase the number

of drawing permit hunts that hunters can apply for each year.

NEUTRAL as long as bag limits are not increased to allow for this suggestion.
.....

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PROPOSAL 241 - 5 AAC 92.050. Required permit hunting conditions and procedures. Establish a bonus point system for some drawing hunts.

(4) permit issuance:

(A) the department shall issue registration permits in the order applications are received and

drawing permits on a lottery basis: **the department may issue drawing permits on a bonus point system as follows:**

SUPPORT as long as bag limits are not increased to allow this proposal to exist.

Proposal 242. AWA is grateful to America's veterans. However, the proposal needs explanation and detail. The proposal is unclear.

Proposal 243. Support. This proposal would give the Department discretion to issue special permits to disabled veterans in select special management areas, including Fort Richardson, the Fairbanks Management Area, the Delta Junction Management Area and perhaps others, including Elmendorf Air Force Base. The AWA supports responsible programs such as permit only hunts for disabled veterans. This appears to be such a program.

Proposal 244. Support.

PROPOSAL 245 - 5 AAC 92.003. Hunter education and orientation requirements. Require archers hunting black bear over bait to be IBEP certified statewide.

SUPPORT as certification should benefit all involved.

PROPOSAL 246 - 5 AAC 92.010. Harvest tickets and reports. Require black bear harvest tickets in any unit where black bear sealing is required.

SUPPORT to maintain accurate data collection by F&G.

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Harlequin Duck, Western Population

(*Histrionicus histrionicus*)

RC 146

Population Size and Trends: There is no reliable index of population size or trend for Harlequin Ducks in western North America. Numbers of breeding birds have been estimated in some small portions of their range over the short term. Single or short-term winter indices are available for a few areas. Winter survey efforts have been most consistent in Prince William Sound, Alaska (since 1989), southern British Columbia; and Puget Sound, Washington.

1. Establish a comprehensive survey program to annually estimate the number of Harlequin Ducks on all major wintering areas in the west, in conjunction with surveys to estimate age ratios
2. Establish monitoring surveys in selected key breeding areas to detect changes in bird densities at local or regional scales.

Population Definition/Delineation: Preliminary studies suggest some genetic differences between Eastern and Western populations and among breeding areas in western North America. Also, direct measures of movement (banding, telemetry) indicate low degrees of exchange at all stages of the annual cycle.

1. More completely describe the degree of genetic similarity/difference between breeding birds from Rocky Mountain/Pacific Northwest component and the Alaska/Bering Sea component.
2. Investigate genetic relationships of breeding birds in northeastern Russia to those in North America.
3. Expand marking studies (banding, satellite and VHF radios) to strengthen knowledge of connections between breeding birds and their molting and wintering grounds across the geographic range.

Population Dynamics: There has been substantial progress on describing basic parameters of population dynamics in western North America. Focused work on the British Columbia Coast and in Alaska (related to the *Exxon Valdez* Oil Spill) has accumulated information on productivity, survival rates of young and adults, and age structure of the population. In other parts of the range, similar information has not been gathered.

1. Expand studies of productivity factors in representative ecological regions across the breeding range (e.g. Rocky Mountain, interior subarctic, Pacific Coast, Bering Sea river basins).
2. Expand studies of seasonal and annual survival rates of juveniles, subadults and adults.
3. Expand studies of sex ratios and age ratios (productivity indices) for major wintering areas.
4. Expand studies of immigration, emigration, and dispersal rates among wintering areas.
5. Increase development of population models that integrate productivity, survival, and harvest components to assess the importance of factors affecting population growth.

SUBMITTED BY NANCY HILLSTRAND

Red-breasted Merganser

(*Mergus serrator*)

Population Size and Trends: Size and trends of populations in North America are not reliably known because aerial surveys do not differentiate between Red-breasted and Common Mergansers, and because large portions of their range are not surveyed. Also, this is a late-breeding species, which implies that most of the regular waterfowl surveys occur too early to provide adequate estimates of population size. For example, in the St. Lawrence estuary, they initiate their nests well after the Common Eiders have hatched. The North American population probably numbers about 300,000 to 400,000.

1. Obtain more reliable estimates of population size in major wintering areas.
2. Determine optimal time for surveys of breeding birds.
3. Obtain more reliable estimates of population size in important breeding areas.
4. Evaluate the potential of surveys at key molting sites as a tool to monitor trends.

Population Definition/Delineation: Little is known about the various populations, but initial genetic data suggest little if any population differentiation across North American breeding areas. Red-breasted Mergansers breed and winter along the Atlantic, Pacific and Arctic coastlines as well as inland. It is not known whether there are subpopulations. It is possible that some of the birds wintering in Greenland breed in Canada, as do Harlequin Ducks and King Eiders.

1. Determine relationships between breeding and wintering areas.
2. Continue analysis on whether there are morphometric and genetic differences between east and west coast birds, between birds breeding in the north versus the south and between Canadian and Greenland birds.
3. Determine whether birds breeding in salt waters differ from those breeding on fresh waters.

Population Dynamics: Little is known about the dynamics of Red-breasted Merganser populations. Only one study has been done on reproductive success in North America, in Lake Michigan. Reproductive success in salt waters and in the north is unknown.

1. Measure reproductive success in different settings, especially in salt and brackish waters.
2. Determine survival rates of males, females and young in different breeding areas.
3. Obtain better estimates of age and sex ratios in various staging and wintering areas.
4. Determine survival rates of sub-adults.

Population Ecology: Only a few studies have been done on the breeding and wintering ecology of the species. Brood amalgamation is frequent in this species. The causes and function of this behavior are unknown, but it likely affects survival of young. There is a need for a few comprehensive breeding biology studies in North America. Winter diet is not well known for most wintering areas.

Common Merganser

(Mergus merganser)

Population Size and Trends: Size and trends of populations in North America are not reliably known because most aerial surveys do not differentiate between Red-breasted and Common Mergansers, and because large portions of their range are not surveyed. However, the Eastern Breeding Waterfowl Survey (CWS in Ontario, Québec and the Atlantic Provinces) gives a good breeding population estimate for the area, with 87,400 pairs in 2003, and the 1990-2003 trend shows stable population. Aerial surveys and Christmas Bird Counts suggest the species may exceed one million birds in North America. Continentally, trends for combined merganser species are clearly positive.

1. Obtain more reliable estimates of population size.
2. Determine breeding densities on major rivers.

Population Definition/Delineation: Initial genetic data suggests that population delineation exists across North America. Substantial genetic differences are present between samples from Alaska/British Columbia and more southerly areas of North America (Pacific Northwest US and the Atlantic provinces of Canada). Additional genetic analyses are examining linkages between these breeding and various wintering locations across North America. Broad scale patterns in movements are based on fairly small samples of banded birds. No data are available on the location of major staging areas and on the number of birds using these areas.

1. Continue to determine location of major breeding, molting, and wintering areas and continue to determine linkages among specific breeding, molting, staging and wintering areas.
2. Continue to examine possible morphometric and genetic differences between birds of different breeding and wintering areas.
3. Refine biological and/or genetic relationships between eastern and western wintering populations with additional breeding samples from the interior boreal forest of Canada (coastal areas of Canada and the United States are fairly well represented by current collections)
4. Investigate associations between eastern Russia and North American populations.
5. Determine major migration routes and staging areas.

Population Dynamics: Little is known about the factors contributing to population regulation of Common Mergansers in North America.

1. Measure reproductive success in major breeding areas, especially on major river systems.
2. Determine survival rates of males, females and young.
3. Quantify the impact of brood amalgamation on duckling survival.
4. Obtain better estimates of age and sex ratios.
5. Determine reproductive success in nest boxes and assess their potential to counteract reduction in nest sites due to logging.

Hooded Merganser

(Lophodytes cucullatus)

Population Size and Trends: There are no reliable data on population size or trend of Hooded Mergansers. In Eastern Canada, good size and trend data come from the Eastern Breeding Waterfowl Survey (CWS in Ontario, Québec and the Atlantic Provinces): breeding population estimate was of 75,700 pairs in 2003 and the 1990-2003 trend shows a statistically significant increase of 4.3% per year. The species prefers wooded habitats where detection is difficult from fixed-wing aircraft, but reasonable from helicopter. Data from most traditional breeding pair and winter waterfowl surveys combine all merganser species, confounding interpretation of species-specific population estimates and trends. A rough estimate is 400,000-600,000 birds in the eastern part of the continent and less than 100,000 in the west, with an increasing trend in population size. Audubon Christmas Bird Count data also indicate increasing populations.

1. Obtain reliable estimates of population size and density in major breeding areas, particularly in western North America.
2. Monitor trends in this species from breeding and wintering surveys.

Population Definition/Delineation: Although the breeding distribution of Hooded Mergansers is disjunct, with eastern and western segments, these two geographical areas are connected by juvenile dispersal and some adult emigration based on banding and genetic analysis conducted by the U.S. Geological Survey, Alaska Science Center. Band recovery data suggest that juvenile birds may migrate long distances following fledging. Birds banded in the Atlantic, Mississippi, and Pacific Flyways winter in their respective and adjacent flyways.

1. Determine location of important breeding, molting and wintering areas.

Population Dynamics: There are no data on population dynamics parameters of Hooded Mergansers nesting in natural cavities. Limited data from nest box studies in the mid-western U.S. and Ontario are insufficient to describe productivity and survival patterns for the species. Sources of natural mortality are poorly known.

1. Estimate reproductive parameters in major breeding areas, especially from natural cavities.
2. Determine survival rates of males, females, and young across the breeding range.
3. Obtain better estimates of age and sex ratios.
4. Evaluate the use of nest boxes as a potential means to establish new populations or to bolster numbers in areas where logging has reduced availability of suitable nesting trees.

Population Ecology: Relatively few studies have been done on the breeding and wintering ecology of Hooded Mergansers. Logging removes natural cavities and affects breeding success. Competition may occur with other cavity-nesting species. The effects of trophic relationships and competition in northern habitats are unknown. In southern breeding areas, annual changes in floodplain habitats may affect use and productivity by Hooded Mergansers.

1. Characterize breeding areas and nest site availability across the range.

Bufflehead

(Bucephala albeola)

Population Size and Trends: An estimated one million birds are present in the traditional Waterfowl Breeding Population and Habitat Survey area ("mid-continent" strata). Additionally, British Columbia may have about 160,000 breeding birds and about 50,000 birds occur in the eastern survey areas not covered by the WBPHS. Considering additional unsurveyed areas, the continental population probably numbers about 1.4 million birds. The majority of Bufflehead breed in western North America, with highest densities in northern Alberta. Long-term surveys indicate that Bufflehead are increasing in most areas, with the possible exception of the U.S. prairies. Wintering populations are not consistently or adequately surveyed.

1. Improve estimates of abundance in the eastern survey areas of the U.S. and Canada.
2. Improve estimates of abundance in British Columbia.

Population Definition/Delineation: Limited band recovery data indicate that birds breeding west of the Rockies migrate to Pacific wintering areas, whereas most birds breeding further east migrate to eastern or southern wintering areas. There is some evidence that molting areas for males and females are different. The identification of molt sites is a potentially important concern at the population level should habitat degradation or disturbance lead to reduced use or abandonment of these sites. Bufflehead are too small to enable tracking with implantable satellite radios currently available, thus other methods of determining linkages may warrant investigation.

1. Determine if any exchange occurs between birds wintering on Atlantic and Pacific Coasts.
2. Determine linkages among breeding, wintering, and molting sites throughout range.
3. Summarize band recovery data for North America.

Population Dynamics: Little is known about reproductive and survival rates for local breeding populations although some research has been done in British Columbia. Recruitment rates are essentially unknown; one reason is because juvenile or sub-adult plumages are quite variable making it difficult to determine known age classes for both sexes.

1. Quantify reproductive and survival rates for local populations.

Population Ecology: In addition to an assessment of recruitment rates in winter, information on individual movements across seasons and across years would be useful to understand habitat use patterns and population requirements. For management purposes, information on sex and age differences in distribution patterns is needed.

1. Determine important factors (weather, predators, food, etc.) affecting survival and reproductive success (fitness) of the species throughout its range during the breeding period.
2. Determine important factors (weather, predators, food, etc.) affecting survival and reproductive success (fitness) of the species throughout its range during the molting period.

Surf Scoter

(*Melanitta perspicillata*)

Population Size and Trends: The continental population seems to number in the hundreds of thousands for this species, but there is little quantitative information available to assess population size and trends. Numbers of Surf Scoters breeding in western Canada and perhaps Alaska appear to be declining. Similarly, the population wintering in the Atlantic Flyway appears to be declining. Eastern and western populations likely can be monitored separately as they appear to have distinct wintering areas that are subject to different harvest pressures.

1. Inventory and monitor numbers of breeding Surf Scoters in the western and eastern populations.
2. Inventory and monitor numbers of wintering Surf Scoters on the east and west coasts.
3. Develop or refine techniques to estimate detection rates during aerial surveys.

Population Definition and Delineation: Surf Scoters breed throughout the boreal forest, but appear to have higher densities in western Canada, Alaska, Ontario and Québec. Based on available evidence from telemetry and banding studies, it is likely that the population can be divided into eastern and western subpopulations with very low rates of dispersal between them. Information on molt areas, migration corridors and winter areas associated with breeding populations is increasing but is still incomplete for both the eastern and western populations.

1. Determine relative densities of Surf Scoters throughout their breeding range.
2. Describe the linkages, including migration corridors, between specific breeding areas, molt and winter areas using satellite telemetry, with emphasis on birds wintering in the Atlantic.
3. Determine seasonal movements of non-breeding Surf Scoters originating from specific breeding areas.
4. Conduct genetic analyses to better discriminate Surf Scoter populations or management units throughout the continent.

Population Dynamics: There are few data on the population dynamics of this species.

1. Determine factors affecting the reproductive success of birds from breeding areas throughout its range (e.g., food, predators, weather, etc.).
2. Determine variation in survival rates for birds from specific wintering areas.
3. Determine the age (eg., juvenile male to adult male) and sex ratios for specific wintering areas.
4. Examine continental scale annual variation in recruitment based on age ratios on wintering areas.
5. Develop a demographic model for the species.

Black Scoter

(Melanitta nigra)

Population Size and Trends: Recent satellite telemetry studies suggest that the western and eastern breeding and wintering populations are allopatric and should be surveyed independently. On the west coast, a survey to provide relatively precise estimates of the Pacific breeding population was developed from 2004 to 2006. The visibility-corrected estimate of Pacific breeding population from 2004 to 2005 was 108,100 Black Scoter (SE = 13,300). Total population, including non-breeding birds, may approach 200,000. Compared to similar surveys flown 15 to 7 years ago, the population has declined with an average annual change at -3.1%. The less intensive Waterfowl Breeding Population and Habitat Survey suggests a decline of about 50% over much of the same area from 1956 to 2006.

In eastern North America, the total population probably numbers 200-300,000 birds, but there is little reliable information available to assess trends. Surveys of molting birds along the western James Bay coast of Ontario indicate that about 140,000 Black Scoters molt there, nearly all males. Migration counts at Avalon, NJ and Point LePreau, NB from 1995 to 2004 produced average (probably minimum) counts of 142,000 and 127,000, respectively.

1. Continue the breeding survey of Pacific Black Scoters.
2. Determine breeding distribution and develop surveys to provide reliable population estimates in eastern North America.
3. Develop or refine techniques to estimate detection rates during aerial surveys.
4. Develop protocol for identifying scoters to species during aerial breeding surveys.

Population Definition and Delineation: There appear to be two geographic populations of Black Scoters that are separated by their breeding and wintering distribution; satellite telemetry of birds on both coasts has not revealed any interchange between Atlantic and Pacific Black Scoter populations, although the sample size from the east coast is particularly small. The breeding range for Black Scoters wintering on the Atlantic coast extends farther west into the boreal forest than previously believed. Genetics and stable isotope analyses may provide further insights into population definition.

1. Determine the breeding and molting areas of ducks associated with various wintering areas range-wide, with emphasis on the eastern population
2. Determine the migration corridors used between breeding, molting and wintering areas.
3. Determine seasonal movements of non-breeding Black Scoters.
4. Collect tissue samples necessary for genetic analyses for Black Scoters.
5. Collect tissue and food samples necessary for stable isotope analyses to help determine seasonal habitat use at a broad geographic scale.

Population Dynamics: There are few data available on population dynamics for this species. Only one breeding population, on the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta, Alaska, has been studied from

White-winged Scoter

(*Melanitta fusca deglandi*)

Population Size and Trends: There is little quantitative information available to assess population size and trends. Numbers of White-winged Scoters breeding in western Canada and Alaska appear to be declining, as suggested by declines in total scoter numbers where White-winged Scoters predominate. Similarly, populations wintering in the Atlantic Flyway seem to be declining. Trends for birds wintering in the Pacific Flyway are uncertain over the entire range, but localized surveys (Puget Sound, San Francisco Bay) suggest significant declines.

1. Develop population estimates and monitoring surveys for the eastern and western wintering populations.
2. Develop standardized surveys to estimate numbers and trends of breeding White-winged Scoters in eastern and western North America.
3. Develop protocol for identifying scoters to species during aerial surveys on breeding grounds.

Population Definition and Delineation: White-winged Scoters breed throughout the boreal forest, but appear to have larger nesting populations in western Canada, Alaska and Québec. Small and declining breeding populations occur in the mid-continent prairie region.

1. Determine linkages among populations at specific breeding, molting, staging and wintering areas.
2. Determine migration corridors and timing of migration between breeding, molting and wintering areas.
3. Determine seasonal movements of non-breeding White-winged Scoters affiliated with various breeding areas.
4. Assess the presence of subpopulations, as well as geographic variation in demography, migratory patterns and winter site fidelity, through a combination of surveys, intensive studies of breeding biology from several areas, isotopic and genetic analyses, long-term banding and satellite telemetry.

Population Dynamics: There are few data on demographic rates for this species, and those available come from small populations at the southern edge of their breeding range in the mid-continent prairies. Studies are currently underway in boreal breeding areas.

1. Estimate seasonal and annual survival rates of birds from different populations, or subpopulations, should they exist.
2. Determine recruitment rates from across the breeding range.
3. Determine the age structure of populations at various breeding and wintering sites.
4. Develop a demographic model for the species.

Barrow's Goldeneye, Western Population

(*Bucephala islandica*)

Population Size and Trends: Population size and trends are uncertain at best. The western population has been crudely estimated at 200,000-250,000 birds. Long-term surveys have been conducted in selected breeding areas of the B.C. interior but this information has yet to be extrapolated into a breeding population estimate. The situation is similar for wintering populations, where only a handful of (inconsistent) surveys have been conducted at wintering sites (eg., Baynes Sound and Stanley Park in BC, Prince William Sound and southeast Alaska). The assessment of trends in the BC breeding population is confounded by the fact that Riske Creek (one of the key survey areas supporting a relatively high density of birds) has been subjected to a variety of population manipulations (e.g., numbers of breeding birds have been either artificially increased by deploying nest boxes 4-5 different times over the last 25 years or decreased by a collection program (e.g., 100 females were shot in one year for research purposes)). Audubon Christmas Bird Count data suggest stable or increasing numbers along the coast in winter, but this survey is not rigorous enough to detect relatively small changes, especially for sub-populations.

1. Develop standardized surveys to estimate abundance levels and population trends across the breeding range.
2. Develop standardized surveys to estimate abundance levels and population trends across the wintering range.

Population Definition/Delineation: Breeding and wintering ranges of western Barrow's Goldeneyes are fairly well described, although its breeding range and relative densities in Alaska are less well known. However, the linkages between these (i.e., the breeding origin of birds from specific winter sites and vice versa) are poorly known. This hampers conservation efforts, as there is no measure of appropriate management units, nor any way to consider geographic limits to cross-seasonal effects. Molting adult males are suspected to concentrate in large groups after they leave the breeding grounds. One of the best known molt sites, Old Crow Flats in the Yukon, supports thousands of males in late summer. A recent satellite telemetry project in south-central B.C. indicates that most males migrate north to molt. Preliminary analyses of these data indicate that: 1) most males disperse over a large geographic area, from northern Alberta and central Northwest Territories, 2) some lakes consistently support a large number of marked birds across years (e.g., 3-5 tagged birds per year molted on Cardinal Lake in northern Alberta in 2006 and 2007), and 3) birds with transmitters that lasted > 2 years (n=2) show the same migration patterns and use the same molt/winter sites across years. Preliminary surveys suggest that females molt in small groups away from breeding areas but the geographic extent of this molt is unknown. The identification of molt sites is a potentially important concern at the population level should habitat degradation or disturbance lead to reduced use or abandonment of these sites. Currently, the best way to determine the linkage between breeding/wintering grounds and key molting sites is through the use of satellite telemetry.

Barrow's Goldeneye, Eastern Population

(Bucephala islandica)

Population Size and Trends: The eastern population of Barrow's Goldeneye was listed in Canada as a species of Special Concern in 2000 and as state-threatened in Maine in 2007. Information on population size suggests only about 2,000 adult breeding females in the population. It is imperative to closely monitor that population as it could easily be up listed to Threatened in Canada. Wintering Barrow's Goldeneye are monitored roughly every three years by helicopter in Quebec and most important wintering areas in New Brunswick.

1. Develop standardized census methodologies for monitoring wintering populations and refine existing techniques.
2. Develop standardized census methodologies for monitoring breeding populations.
3. Develop annual measures of productivity on important wintering areas (i.e. age ratios).

Population Definition/Delineation: The winter range of the eastern population is fairly well known. However, links to breeding areas have only been established for the birds wintering in the St. Lawrence estuary. Whether birds wintering in Québec, along the Gulf of St. Lawrence, the Maritimes and the eastern U.S. breed in the same area is unknown. Preliminary genetic studies are not conclusive and more detailed studies are needed. The general breeding area has been identified, but the exact boundaries, especially in the north, have yet to be determined.

1. Characterize the genetic and morphologic structure of the three major populations of Barrow's Goldeneye.
2. Determine the northern boundary of the Québec/Labrador breeding area.
3. Determine affiliations among breeding, molting, and wintering areas for birds wintering along the Gulf of St. Lawrence (Québec), in the Maritimes and the U.S.

Population Dynamics: Little is known of the dynamics of the eastern population of Barrow's Goldeneye. The breeding area was just discovered in 1998 and to date there has been only one preliminary study on nest box use.

1. Determine the reproductive success of the population, both hatching and fledging success.
2. Determine the survival rate of various age-sex cohorts of the population.
3. Conduct regular winter surveys to provide information on age and sex ratios in the population.

Population Ecology: Little is known of the ecology of the eastern population of Barrow's Goldeneye. Studies are limited. Recent work indicates that natural nest sites are located in large decaying snags, for which availability is probably greatly affected by substantial logging pressure in breeding habitats. The feeding ecology of pairs and broods has not been documented on the breeding areas. Growth rates of ducklings and the factors affecting them are unknown. Although some molting sites of males are known, the location of female molting sites is still unknown.

Common Goldeneye

(*Bucephala clangula*)

Population Size and Trends: The Waterfowl Breeding Population and Habitat Survey indicates stable populations throughout surveyed areas of North America. However, goldeneye are not differentiated to species during this survey, which may compound interpretation of trends, particularly in western North America where Common and Barrow's breeding ranges overlap. In Eastern Canada, quite good size and trend data come from the Eastern Breeding Waterfowl Survey (CWS in Ontario, Québec and the Atlantic Provinces): breeding population estimate was of 112,900 pairs in 2003 and the 1990-2003 trend shows a statistically significant increase of 3.0% per year. Audubon Christmas Bird Count data suggest stable to increasing Common Goldeneye populations on wintering areas. The population has been crudely estimated at 1.25 million birds based on partial counts during the breeding season.

1. Improve population monitoring techniques (geographic coverage, survey timing, estimate detection rates), particularly in its western range, as needed to manage this species more effectively.
2. Determine species composition in breeding and wintering areas where Barrow's and Common Goldeneyes overlap in western North America.

Population Definition and Delineation: Common Goldeneye breed across forested areas of Alaska, across the wooded parts of northern Canada to the Maritime Provinces, and south to northern Washington, northern North Dakota, northern New York state and Maine. Goldeneye winter from the southern limits of its breeding range to the Gulf States. Banding data show a general pattern of eastern breeding birds wintering on the Atlantic coast or Great Lakes, and western breeding birds wintering on the Pacific coast or western states, with an overlap area in the western Rocky mountain provinces.

1. Better survey techniques on breeding and wintering areas would help to understand the possible factors impacting this species on the breeding grounds of western North America.
2. Radio telemetry should be considered to delineate more accurately the breeding and molting areas and links to wintering areas.
3. Comprehensive genetic analyses should be completed to examine relationships among North American populations.

Population Dynamics: Most studies of breeding biology have focused on populations nesting in nest boxes. There is insufficient information to build population models.

1. Breeding biology studies of birds using natural cavities for nesting are needed.
2. Estimate survival rates for all age and sex classes throughout range.

Population Ecology: Increased acidification of wetlands has been considered a favorable factor to the survival of broods, due to a decrease of fish as a competitor for invertebrate foods. On eastern wintering areas, especially Chesapeake Bay, there is some concern that hunting guides are putting greater pressure on sea ducks.

King Eider

(Somateria spectabilis)

Population Size and Trends: Aerial surveys that provide indices of breeding population size are currently operational in northern Alaska. Similar surveys in western and central arctic Canada are in development through a cooperative effort by the Sea Duck Joint Venture and Arctic Goose Joint Venture. The aerial surveys indicate King Eiders have declined in number since the early 1990's in parts of western arctic Canada, but remained stable in central arctic Canada and northern Alaska. Counts at Point Barrow, Alaska during spring migration indicate that overall, the western arctic population has been stable since the mid 1990's. There is no up-to-date information on the population status of King Eiders nesting in eastern arctic Canada. However, surveys of King Eiders molting off central west Greenland suggest present numbers are only half of what they were in the 1950's. Roughly 400,000 King Eiders nest in western arctic Canada and northern Alaska. An additional 100,000 or more of the eiders that winter in the Bering Sea and North Pacific nest in Russia. There is no reliable estimate of the number of King Eiders nesting in eastern arctic Canada.

1. Continue breeding population surveys timed specifically for eiders on the Alaska arctic coastal plain, as a means of monitoring population trends in Alaska.
2. Continue to develop waterfowl breeding population surveys for western and central arctic Canada in cooperation with Arctic Goose Joint Venture, as a means of monitoring population trends of King Eiders in Canada.
3. Repeat eider count at Point Barrow during spring migration every 5-10 years.
4. Determine whether the migratory pathway of eiders past Point Barrow varies among years, to assess whether the spring migration counts are a valid means of measuring population size and trends.
5. Survey molting or wintering birds in western and southern Greenland. Although interpretation of surveys would be confounded because it is unknown whether birds come from Canada or Greenland, these surveys may be the most efficient means of monitoring population trends of Atlantic King Eiders.

Population Definition/Delineation: Satellite telemetry, banding and stable isotope studies in Alaska and Canada indicate that over much of the breeding range there are two distinct populations of King Eiders wintering in two geographically distinct areas. However, in at least one location in central arctic Canada (i.e. Queen Maud Migratory Bird Sanctuary), the breeding range of eiders that winter west of the continent overlaps with that of eiders wintering to the east. Not only is there overlap, but also some females within the area of overlap switch wintering areas among years (stable isotope analysis indicated about 20% of the females likely switched wintering areas between two years). Furthermore, a recent genetics study indicates that there is no genetic distinction between King Eiders wintering in the Atlantic versus those wintering in the Bering Sea and North Pacific. Although not genetically distinct, it may still be best to manage King Eiders in arctic Canada as two populations. To do that, more information is needed on location and extent of overlap of the two breeding ranges in arctic Canada.

Spectacled Eider

(*Somateria fischeri*)

Population Size and Trends: All Spectacled Eider breeding populations were listed as threatened on May 10, 1993 because of documented population declines. The Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta population declined by >90% between the 1970s and early 1990s. Anecdotal information indicated that populations in the other two primary breeding areas, the Russian and Alaskan Arctic Coastal Plains, also declined, along with the much smaller breeding population on St. Lawrence Island in the Bering Sea. Annual aerial surveys for breeding population trend have been developed for the two North American breeding subpopulations. A ground-based nest survey is used in conjunction with aerial survey indices to provide an annual estimate of the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta population; recent estimates are about 9,400 breeding birds with a slightly increasing population trend. A fixed-wing survey is flown annually to estimate numbers on Alaska's Arctic Coastal Plain; an estimated 13,000 birds breed there with a stable population trend. A single aerial survey, conducted over a 4-year period, provided a population index for the Arctic Russia breeding population. Winter surveys of the only known wintering area of this species (presumed to represent the world population) provided a total species estimate of about 363,000 in 1996-1997.

1. Continue the *Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Nest Plot Survey* and *Aerial Breeding Pair Survey* used together to provide a nest population estimate.
2. Repeat the survey of the wintering area (last conducted in 1998).
3. Continue the *Arctic Coastal Plain Survey*.
4. Conduct periodic breeding pair surveys of Russia breeding habitats.

Population Definition/Delineation: Genetic analysis indicates the presence of 3 distinct breeding subpopulations: Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta, Alaska Arctic coastal plain, and Russia.

1. Determine whether Ledyard Bay is a staging and molting area for North Slope or Arctic Russia breeding populations.

Population Dynamics: Current survival data are derived from site-specific studies of the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta breeding population and may not be representative of the entire region. Similar information is not available for the North Slope of Alaska or Russia.

1. Capture and mark adult female Spectacled Eiders nesting on Kigigak Island, Yukon Delta NWR to estimate annual survival.
2. Evaluate the feasibility and efficacy of predator (fox, gull) control on the Yukon Kuskokwim Delta where gulls may be affecting Spectacled Eiders.
3. Monitor productivity and recruitment of Spectacled Eiders on Kigigak Island, Yukon Delta NWR.
4. Estimate annual survival of Spectacled Eiders on the North Slope.

Common Eider, Pacific Race

(Somateria mollissima v-nigra)

Population Size and Trends: Surveys that provide abundance indices of breeding populations are currently operational or in development in parts of their range, including the western Canadian arctic, Alaska arctic coastal plain, and Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta (YKD). The Pacific race is roughly estimated to number 170,000 birds. Surveys of migrating birds at Point Barrow, Alaska during spring suggest significant declines from 1976 to 1996, but possible increases since then; current estimates remain well below those obtained in the mid-1970s. Surveys in northwest Alaska, Aleutian Islands, and northwest Canada are still too recent to detect trends.

1. Continue and further develop surveys for YKD, Alaska arctic coastal plain, and western Canadian arctic.
2. Repeat spring migration counts at Point Barrow every 5-10 years.
3. Develop long-term monitoring plan for western arctic Canada, northwest Alaska and Aleutian Islands.
4. Conduct exploratory breeding surveys of St. Lawrence Island, St. Matthew Island, and Nunivak Island.
5. Conduct periodic breeding pair survey of Russia breeding habitats.

Population Definition/Delineation: Satellite telemetry studies of Pacific Common Eider suggest geographic structuring within the population. Specifically, those breeding in the western Canadian Arctic and Alaska arctic coastal plain seem similar in regard to wintering areas (i.e., eastern Russia). Common Eiders marked on the YKD exhibited different migratory patterns and used different wintering areas. Initial satellite telemetry results support the assumption that the Aleutian birds are resident; however, further study is needed to ascertain whether the Aleutians, which represent an immense area, contain subpopulations of Common Eiders. Preliminary satellite telemetry data for eiders breeding on the Seward Peninsula, Alaska, suggest wintering areas in both eastern Russia and western coastal Alaska.

1. Identify links among breeding, molting, wintering, and staging areas of Common Eiders breeding on the Seward Peninsula.
2. Identify links among breeding, molting, wintering, and staging areas of Common Eiders breeding in the Aleutian Islands.

Population Dynamics: Detailed studies on breeding biology and estimates of vital rates exist only for a few local breeding areas, most notably YKD, Alaska north coast, and central arctic Canada. A generic population model has been developed for YKD Pacific Common Eiders, but some key population model parameters are missing or lack estimates of variation.

1. Determine reproductive success for this race in all major nesting areas.
2. Determine age-specific survival rates throughout range.

Steller's Eider

(*Polysticta stelleri*)

Population Size and Trends: In Russia, the Steller's Eider is considered rare and recorded in the Red Book, although an extensive survey of the Russian Far East indicated over 100,000 birds in the Pacific population. A smaller Atlantic population from western Siberia numbers 30-50,000. The Alaska breeding population is listed as a threatened species in 1997 under authority of the Endangered Species Act based on a substantial decrease in the species range and vulnerability of the remaining Alaska breeding population to extirpation. Steller's Eiders have essentially disappeared as a breeding species from the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta where they were once numerous. The breeding population on the Arctic Coastal Plain is highly variable, with highest densities around the Barrow area. Although several hundred probably occur there in most years, there is little reliable quantitative information available to assess trends. A spring aerial survey provides an annual index to population size of birds migrating northward in coastal habitats in southwest Alaska.

1. Continue intensive aerial surveys near Barrow.
2. Continue standardized ground-based breeding pair surveys at Barrow.
3. Continue spring Pacific population aerial survey.
4. Explore possibility of counting birds in the ice leads of the Chukchi Sea in spring before they arrive on the North Slope.
5. Develop visibility correction factor for aerial surveys of Steller's Eiders on the breeding grounds.

Population Definition/Delineation: There are two geographical populations of Steller's Eiders with separate breeding and winter distributions. The Atlantic population nests in western Siberia and winters in the Barents and Baltic Seas. Most of the Pacific breeding population inhabits the maritime tundra of northeast Siberia, and a smaller population breeds at low densities across the Arctic Coastal Plain of Alaska. The Pacific population winters primarily in Alaska in the Bering Sea, although specific wintering areas of the threatened Alaska breeding population are less certain. Genetic analyses of the disparate breeding populations in Russia and North America have not been conducted. A captive flock of Steller's Eiders has been established at the Alaska Sea Life Center (ASLC).

1. Maintain captive flocks, develop techniques for artificial propagation, and investigate development of a second captive flock.
2. Develop a plan for re-introduction, including fully establishing a known-geographic origin flock of Steller's Eiders At ASLC.
3. Opportunistically collect eggs on the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta and North Slope to establish a flock of known-geographic origin Steller's Eiders at ASLC.
4. Conduct satellite telemetry study to link breeding, molting, wintering and staging areas.

Long-tailed Duck

(Clangula hyemalis)

Population Size and Trends: The North American population may number between one and two million birds, but survey coverage is incomplete and there is little information to reliably quantify population size and trends. The North American Breeding Populations Survey indicates substantial declines from the 1950's to early 1990's, but stable population over the past 15 years. This survey does not cover the majority of Long-tailed Duck breeding range in Canada and Alaska. Through a cooperative effort by SDJV and AGJV, aerial surveys are being developed to obtain indices of breeding population size in western and central arctic Canada.

1. Continue to develop waterfowl breeding population surveys for arctic Canada in cooperation with Arctic Goose Joint Venture, as a means of monitoring population trends of Long-tailed Ducks in Canada.
2. Initiate and expand winter sea duck surveys into areas of known concentrations to sample a greater proportion of the population (e.g., Chesapeake Bay, Nantucket Island Shoals, Great Lakes, Gulf of St. Lawrence, and Pacific Coast).

Population Definition and Delineation: Satellite telemetry studies suggest considerable interchange among breeding, molting, and wintering populations throughout North America, although sample sizes are small.

1. Compare genetic material of Long-tailed Ducks that winter on the Atlantic and Pacific Coasts, and on the Great Lakes, to determine whether there is more than one distinct population in North America.
2. Determine affiliations between breeding, molting and wintering areas (satellite telemetry, banding, stable isotopes).
3. Determine migration corridors between breeding and wintering areas (satellite telemetry).

Population Dynamics: There are few data on population dynamics for this species. The most important limiting factors are unknown.

1. Estimate survival rates of birds from various breeding areas.
2. Collect productivity data for breeding areas.
3. Determine the age structure of birds from various breeding areas.
4. Once necessary demographic parameters have been estimated, develop a demographic model for the species.