

Proposal 166 A

5 AAC 92.013 Migratory bird hunting guide services

Amend to create a new definition under 5 AAC 92.013: "Migratory Bird transport services" means a business or affiliated business, that assists hunters; or migratory Bird hunting Guides to transport hunters; by personally directing hunters in hunting activities; assisting in the carriage of hunters, their equipment; or migratory birds harvested by hunters to, from, or in the field; for compensation by water taxi, air taxi, fishing charter outfitters; combo hunting/fishing boats; or lodges.

Many business entities guide, transport waterfowl hunters or assist with the registered Migratory Bird Guide Services. These entities are not registered with the Department so information is not captured of their existence as additional Migratory Bird Guides. This skews harvest data.

*"...we believe that mortality of sea ducks from hunting is completely additive to natural mortality, considering the life history characteristics of sea ducks*

USFWS Sea Ducks in the Atlantic Flyway

*"Although sea ducks have smaller harvests than many other waterfowl, conservative hunting regulations seem prudent considering our overall state of knowledge of these birds. Regulations for scoters should be very conservative because of evidence of downward population trends and the extreme paucity of information on black and surf scoters."*

**Sea Ducks in the Atlantic Flyway: Population Status and a review of Special Hunting Seasons**

By: Seaducks Unlimited