



Sun'aq Tribe of Kodiak

PC023

Attention: Board of Game
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
ADF&G Boards Support
PO Box 115526
Juneau, Alaska 99811-5526
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January 6, 2017

To Whom It May Concern:

Sun'aq Tribe of Kodiak, a member of the Alaska Migratory Bird Co-Management Council (AMBCC) Native Caucus and the facilitator for the Kodiak Archipelago Regional Management Body of the AMBCC, is in support of "Proposal 157 – 5 AAC 85.065(a)(4)(G) Hunting seasons and bag limits for small game; and 99.025(12) Customary and traditional uses of small game". In 2016, a model integrating 30 years of survey data estimated the Emperor goose population is between 150,000-170,000 birds. This new data shows that the population has reached a harvestable level. Proposal 157 provides a subsistence opportunity for the emperor geese for the first time in 30 years.

On Kodiak Island, Emperor geese arrive in October to overwinter, and leave in mid-April. Because of the seasonal distribution of Emperor geese, the subsistence opportunity for Kodiak residents will be limited during the Alaska Subsistence Spring/Summer Migratory Bird Harvest. The Kodiak Regional Archipelago Management Body is in support of the proposed fall hunt regional allocations for Emperor geese, including 175 permits for the Kodiak region, so Tribal members are able to harvest this resource.

For over 7,500 years, Alutiiq people have inhabited and managed Kodiak Archipelago's natural resources. To this day, Alutiiq people rely heavily on land, maritime and freshwater subsistence resources. Many Alutiiq people have not been able to taste Emperor goose meat during their lifetime. Having the ability to harvest Emperor geese for traditional and customary uses would be celebrated in the community of Kodiak.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeannine Marsh".

Jeannine Marsh
Sun'aq Tribe of Kodiak
Tribal Administrator

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