

**PROMOTING SEA DUCK CONSERVATION THROUGH COMANAGEMENT: OLD TRADITIONS AND NEW OPPORTUNITIES**

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Sea ducks and the Native peoples of the far north have always been strongly connected by ecology, economy, culture, and spirit. Breeding and molting sea ducks cohabit coastal tundra regions and interior river basins with rural communities; sea ducks are an important part of traditional spring and summer subsistence harvests; and aboriginal governments play an important role in ownership, management and economic development in northern sea duck habitats. Negotiated amendments to migratory bird treaties with Canada (1995) and Mexico (1997) brought to fruition longstanding efforts to legalize traditional spring harvests, but also established the basis for a more comprehensive management system through involvement of subsistence communities in all aspects of migratory bird management. Establishment of the Alaska Migratory Bird Comanagement Council in Alaska and comanagement programs in Canada provide a unique opportunity for collaboration on key elements of sea duck conservation: delineation and assessment of sea duck populations, research on population dynamics, evaluation of harvest, and habitat protection.

# ABSTRACTS



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