

THE YUKON-KUSKOKWIM DELTA GOOSE MANAGEMENT PLAN

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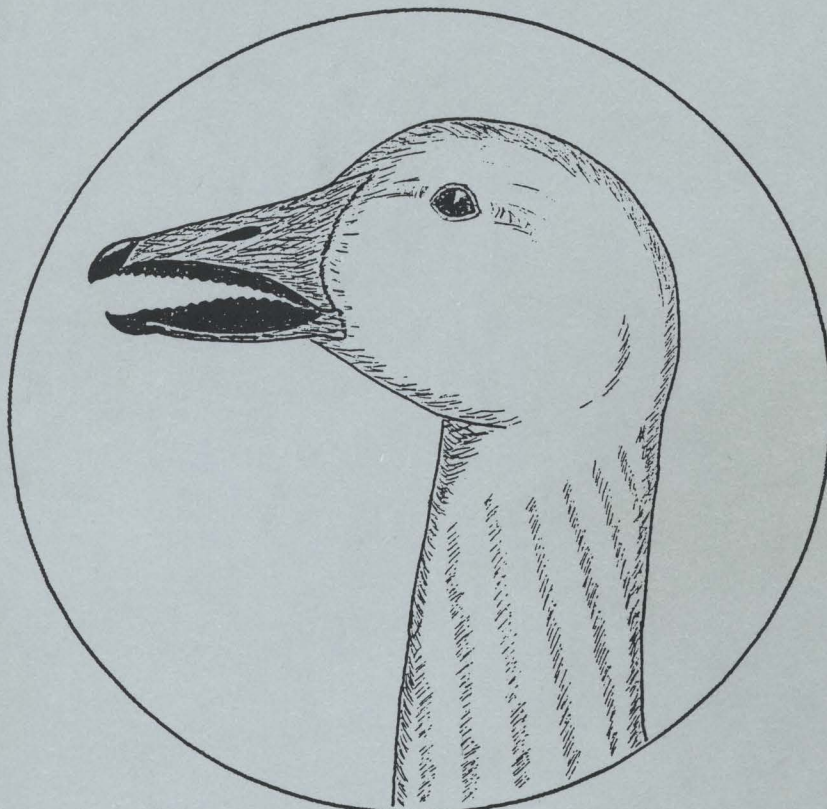
The Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta (Delta) of Alaska is the primary breeding area of 4 species of Arctic nesting geese: cackling Canada geese, emperor geese, Pacific brant, and Pacific white-fronted geese. Alaska natives in the Delta region have traditionally taken large numbers of these birds in the spring for subsistence. Other hunters in the Pacific Flyway harvest the same goose populations in fall staging and wintering areas. When these goose populations approached all time lows in the early 1980s, a cooperative management plan was developed and called the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Goose Management Plan (Plan). Partners in the Plan include the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Association of Village Council Presidents (AVCP), AVCP's Waterfowl Conservation Committee, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, and the California Department of Fish and Game. Since the Plan was implemented in 1984, it has been successful in achieving reduced harvest and increased populations of the 4 species of Arctic nesting geese. Most notable are the increases in cackling Canada geese (up from a low of 25,800 in 1984 to 110,200 in 1990) and Pacific white-fronted geese (from 91,700 in 1982 to 240,800 in 1990). Through good communications between cooperators; established population objectives and management guidelines; an intensive education program; population biology research; and monitoring, verification, and enforcement of the plan, the process has proven an effective mechanism for managing goose populations and a good forum for discussing a variety of waterfowl issues of common interest.

7th North American Arctic Goose Conference and Workshop

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