

Note: The Board of Game does not have constitutional authority to limit hunting for Alaska residents based on residency.

PROPOSAL 17

5 AAC 92.013. Migratory bird hunting guide services.

Reserve waterfowl hunting areas in the Sitka area for local hunters as follows:

(d) A migratory bird hunting guide operating in the area of Sitka enclosed on the north by a line in Peril Strait at the latitude of Rapids Point, on the northwest by a line from Kruzof Island at 57° 20.50' N. lat., 135° 45.17' W. long. to Chichagof Island at 57° 22. 05' N. lat., 135° 43' W. long., and on the south and west by a line running from the southernmost tip of Sitka Point 56° 59.38' N. lat., 135° 49.57' W. long. to Hanus Point at 56° 51.92' N. lat., 135° 30.50' W. long. to the green day marker in Dorothy Narrows at 56° 49.28' N. lat., 135° 22.75' W. long. to Baranof Island at 56° 49.28'N. lat., 135° 22.60' W. long. may engage in providing migratory bird hunting guide services for sea ducks, goldeneye and bufflehead ducks only.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? This proposal is put forth to reserve waterfowl hunting areas around Sitka for local hunters and preclude new development of guided waterfowl hunting for puddle ducks (mallard, wigeon, teal, pintail, gadwall, and shoveler) and geese in the areas most frequently utilized by local hunters.

Local waterfowl hunters generally utilize a handful of bays within an hour skiff ride from town. A number of these same areas are also popular for stream fishing for fall coho by personal use fishermen and guided and non-guided sport fishermen. The high level of use in these areas can restrict hunter access to hunt locations on days when fishermen are present. Guided waterfowl hunting for puddle ducks in this area could result in additional congestion and increased competition for hunting locations and birds.

According to the 2016 Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) Public Distribution List of Migratory Bird Hunting Guides Registered in Alaska on the ADF&G website, the number of guides registered for waterfowl hunts in this area is low and an internet search finds only one business advertising guided hunts for ducks (sea ducks) in the Sitka area. This proposal does not seek to restrict established guided sea duck (scoter, oldsquaw, harlequin, and merganser) hunting, which generally would not overlap with hunting of puddle ducks on tidal flats. However, expansion of guiding operations for other duck species potentially could bring multiple-day hunting trips to this area, increasing competition and further reducing local opportunities. This proposal does not eliminate the opportunity to establish new guided hunting operations but asserts that this should not come at the expense of local users. This proposal asks that those receiving monetary compensation from this resource be required to travel further from town to avoid conflict. It will be to easier to address this issue now than to deal with this situation after new businesses are established.

Though goldeneye and bufflehead are not considered sea ducks, for the purposes of this proposal they would be included in the species that guided hunters could target in this area. These are species that guided hunters may want to harvest and are likely to be encountered while hunting sea ducks.

PROPOSED BY: Mike Vaughn

(HQ-F18-019)
