Migratory Game Bird Regulations Process





Background

- Migratory Bird Treaty Act 1918
- Federal authority to issue regulations compatible with International Treaties
- Sets season lengths (107 days) and closed period (between March 10 - September 1)
- 1995/1997 amendment to Treaties with Canada and Mexico allowed Alaska subsistence harvest exemption

Federal Regulations

 Annual Regulations - fall hunting and spring/summer subsistence hunting

Basic Regulations - cover methods and means Not considered on an annual basis

Annual Regulations Early and Late-Season Regulations

- Establishes Federal Frameworks
- States may select seasons and bag limits within Frameworks
- Frameworks include opening and closing dates; season length, shooting hours, daily bag and possession limits, zones and split seasons (which may have different regulations), permit hunts and quotas
- States may be more restrictive but not more liberal

Zones and Splits

- Alaska has 5 regulatory zones for waterfowl hunting
- Split seasons allowed in just one Zone (Kodiak)



- Proposals to split the zone or to split season are eligible for consideration every five years (next in 2020)
- Alaska has "Grandfather Status"

Joint-Federal State Process

- 4 Administrative Flyways
- Alaska is a member of the Pacific Flyway
- Designed to maximize effectiveness of migratory bird management, coordinate interstate studies and share data, minimize conflicts between states over

harvest allocations

Pacific Flyway Process



- 11 western states and Canada
- Composed of the Pacific Flyway Study Committee (Biologists) and the Pacific Flyway Council (Directors of the State Wildlife Agencies)
- Makes formal recommendations for hunting regulations, management actions, and policy to the USFWS Regulations Committee (SRC)

Past Regulatory Timeline Alaska Early-Season Regulations

March **July Late-June** Flyway Council **ADF&G Publishes SRC Meets** Meets **Approve Flyway** Regulations Recommends Recommendations Booklet **Annual Regulations Late-July Mid-August** August **Proposed** Frameworks Final Frameworks ADF&G Published in Published in Emergency Federal Register Federal Register Regulations for Public **Process** Comment September 1

Season Opens

State Board of Game

 Adopts migratory bird hunting regulations within the federal framework, but

 Waterfowl regulations are often out-of-cycle so adopt Emergency Regulations

Emergency Regulations Process

- Under Delegation of Authority from the BOG (16.05.270)
- Effective August 31 (signed by Lt. Governor)
- Public Comment Period
- Expires December 28 made permanent by the adopting agency

New Regulatory Timeline Early/Late Season Regulations

Late September October **December** Proposed Frameworks Flyway Council SRC Meets to Published in Federal Recommends **Approve Flyway** Register for Public **Annual Regulations** Recommendations Comment **Late February** April June Final Frameworks Alaska Makes **FWS Publishes** Published in **Season Selections Season Selections** Federal Register Fall Harvest July **August** September 1 **ADF&G** Publishes ADF&G Regulations Emergency Season Opens Booklet Regulations

Spring/Summer Subsistence Harvest Regulations



Alaska Migratory Bird Co-Management Council Process

- After 1997 amendment to the Treaties, the AMBCC established
 - 3 members each with equal vote
- AMBCC:

Native Caucus - 11 Alaska Native regions

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Alaska Dept. Fish and Game

- Function as a separate Flyway
- Federal subsistence regulations establish annual and basic subsistence regulations

AMBCC Regulatory Timeline

Nov 1-Dec 15

Call for regulatory proposals



Jan - March

AMBCC Technical Committee meets to review proposals



April

AMBCC annual regulations meeting

September

Flyway Councils meet/comment on AMBCC proposed regulations



October

SRC meets to approve proposed regulations



December

Proposed frameworks published in federal register for public comment

Late February

Final frameworks published in Federal Register



March

USFWS publishes regulations booklet



April 2 - Aug 31

Season Open

