

Alaska Native Caucus of the Alaska Migratory Bird Co-Management Council additional comments regarding Proposals 43 and 4.

Additional comments on Proposal 43 to allow the taking of Emperor geese by proxy hunting with specific recommendations regarding how best to destroy the trophy value of a proxy-hunted emperor goose.

The Alaska Native Caucus of the Alaska Migratory Bird Co-Management Council has consulted with various stakeholders during the course of this meeting regarding the most culturally appropriate method of trophy destruction.

We suggest that removing the skin of the head will greatly reduce the chances for abuse of the proposed proxy hunt provisions without negatively affecting customary and traditional uses of emperor geese. We do not support removal of feathers of the breast because these and other feathers are used for customary and traditional purposes.

With respect to Proposal 4, the Native Caucus of the AMBCC appreciates the public testimony that we have heard during this meeting regarding the potential affects to trapping bait. We support the use of wing tips for trapping bait from smaller migratory birds such as ducks, but we are concerned about such uses of larger bird wing parts that contain substantial amounts of edible and delicious meat on the upper portion of wings from geese, swans, and cranes. We suggest that wing tips would still be able to be used for trapping bait.

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