



Customary and Traditional Use Worksheet: Migratory Game Birds

**Prepared by:
Division of Subsistence
Alaska Department
of Fish and Game**

**Prepared for:
Alaska Board of Game
Anchorage, Alaska
November 2017**



Proposal 53

- Proposal prepared by ADF&G at request of the Board
- At January 2017 meeting in Bethel, Board acted on proposal 157, opening a fall season for emperor geese
- AS 16.05.258 requires a C&T finding
- The board made a positive C&T finding for emperor geese throughout range, and migratory game birds in Units 18, 22, 23, and 26A
- The Board requested department to submit proposal for statewide meeting to address C&T in remaining units
- Full written worksheet RC 4 Tab 5. Worksheet is unmodified from January 2017 meeting.

Proposal Background

Regulations for the

2017 Alaska Subsistence Spring/Summer Migratory Bird Harvest



Emperor Goose Photo: Donna Dewhurst, USFWS

- Federal regulations allow spring/summer subsistence migratory bird hunting under amended MBTA
- Hunting in fall/winter allowed under state small game regulations for waterfowl, cranes, and snipe
- Revised federal management plan for emperor geese allows spring/summer subsistence hunt and fall hunt in 2017; first since 1986
- Board opened fall state hunt, beginning in 2017

Conservation through Co-Management



Effective April 2 - August 31, 2017

<http://www.fws.gov/alaska/ambcc/regulations.htm>

Regulations and Definitions

A
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A
S
K
A

2017 - 2018 Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations Summary



Photo by Milo Burcham
Graphic Design by Sue Steinacher



- Federal regulations list migratory birds open for subsistence hunting in spring/summer
- Several categories
- State regulations allow hunting under 5 AAC 85.065 (a)(4). Small game. Migratory game birds. [ducks, geese, swans, cranes, common snipe]
- Current C&T findings at 5 AAC 99.025 (a)(12). Small game

Options for C&T Finding

Options presented to board in January 2017:

- Option 1. A finding that addresses waterfowl (ducks, geese, swans), cranes, and common snipe – those migratory birds open to fall/winter hunting in Alaska under state regulations, including emperor geese (beginning in 2017)
 - See list in Appendix 1 in RC 4 Tab 5
- Option 2. A finding that addresses emperor geese only

The Board chose a modified version of Option 1 at January 2017 meeting, with intent to complete action at November 2017 statewide meeting

Sources of Information

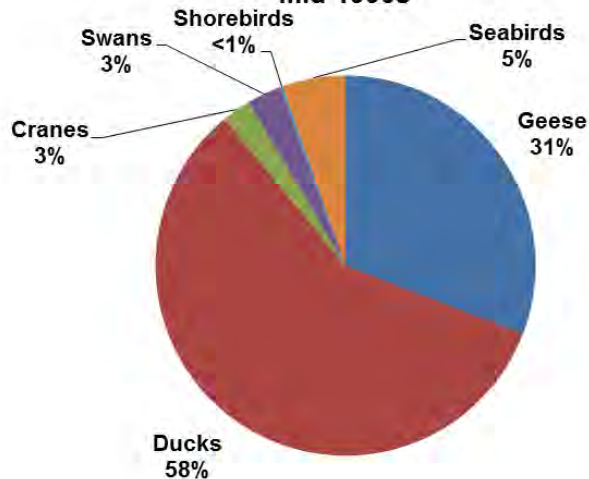


- Considerable ethnographic information about migratory birds
- Harvest surveys from 1980s and 1990s
- ADF&G community harvest surveys (CSIS)
- AMBCC harvest surveys since 2004



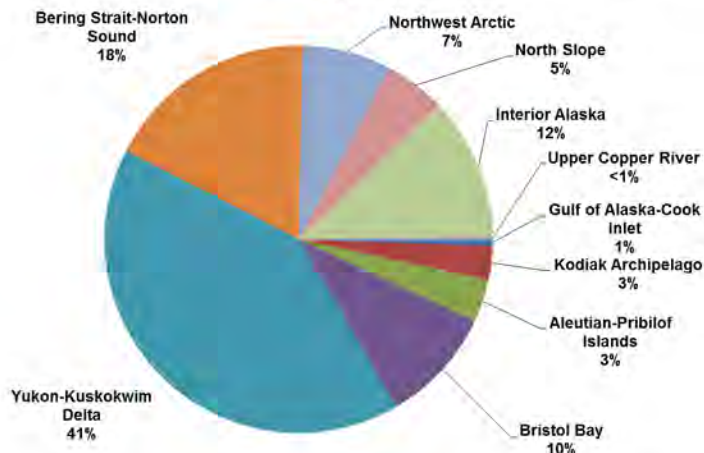
Criterion 1: Length and consistency of use: migratory birds

Figure 3. Composition of Estimated Harvest of Migratory Birds, Rural Alaska Residents, mid 1990s



- Ethnographic information documents historical and recent uses of migratory birds for food and raw materials.
- Estimated annual rural subsistence harvest, 1990s = 360,000 migratory birds
- In 1990s, statewide harvest = 58% ducks, 31% geese, 3% cranes, 3% swans
- Estimated annual rural harvest 2004 – 2012 = 345,000 migratory birds
- In early 2000s, most harvests in 6 regions

Figure 5. Migratory Bird Harvest by Residents of Rural Alaska Regions, 2004 – 2010



Criterion 2: Seasonality: migratory birds

Figure 8. Seasonality of Migratory Bird Harvest, All Alaska Regions Combined, early 1990s

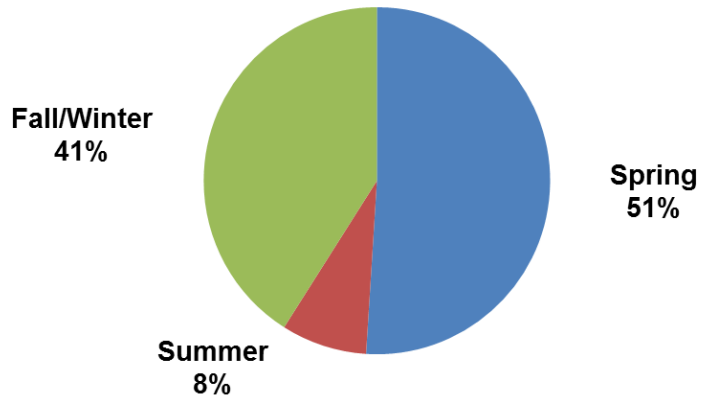
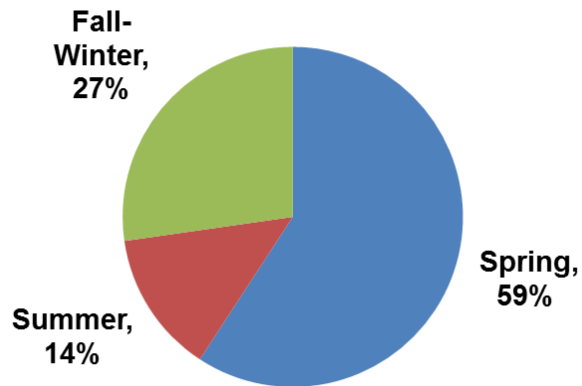


Figure 9. Seasonality of migratory bird harvests, all Alaska regions, 2004 – 2009



- Several seasonal patterns described for the state
- Seasonal pattern for 1990s
- Seasonal pattern early 2000s
- Key role of spring harvests in seasonal round
- Key distinguishing feature is role of fall and winter harvests, linked to bird movements

Criterion 3: Efficient means and methods of harvest and economy of cost: migratory birds



Harvest of migratory birds along with whitefish, eggs, and greens, Kuskokwim River.

- Traditionally: spears, bow and arrow, nets, bolas, drives
- Use of firearms for over 100 years
- Taken in connection with other subsistence activities

Criterion 4: Geographic areas: migratory birds



- Generally hunting occurs near communities
- Some limited, specific information for particular species



Criterion 5: Means of handling, preparing, preserving, and storing: migratory birds



- Thorough use for food; soups, frozen, salted, stored in seal oil
- Feathers used in dance fans and other art and crafts
- Some traditions specific to particular species (emperor goose examples in worksheet)

Criterion 6: Intergenerational transmission of knowledge of skills, values, and lore: migratory birds



- Family activities
- Role in oral traditions
- Role in arts and crafts

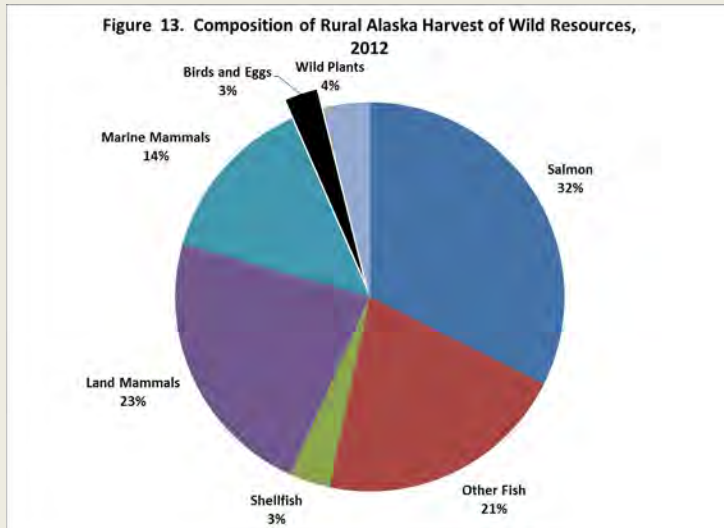
A Nondalton family processes their spring harvest of migratory birds.

Criterion 7: Distribution and exchange: migratory birds

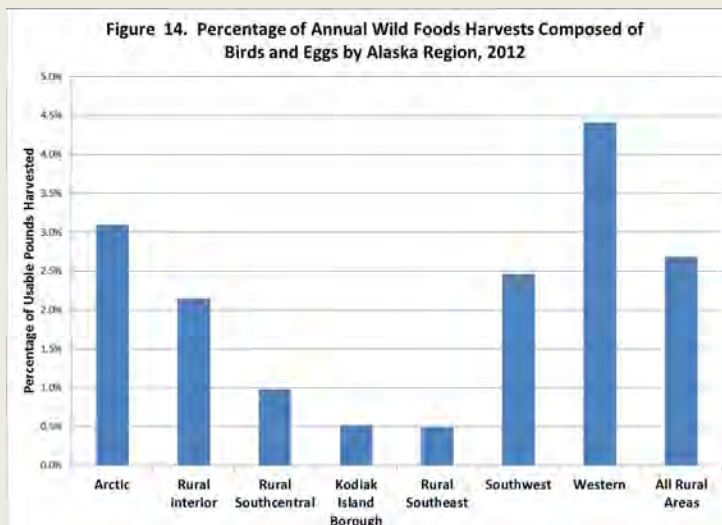


- Migratory birds are widely shared
- See Tables 8 and 9 for examples from the 1980s/1990s and for 2013

Criterion 8: Diversity of resources in an area; economic, cultural, social, and nutritional elements: migratory birds



- Estimated harvest in rural areas, 2012 = 989,000 lb of birds and eggs
- About 3% of total rural harvest
- Contribution varies by region
- Species mix also varies by region



Conclusions

- No recommendation on amount reasonably necessary for subsistence (ANS) for migratory game birds
- Questions?

