



## Proposal 85

## Migratory Game Bird Guide

## CHANGE THE DEFINITION OF MIGRATORY GAME BIRD GUIDE SERVICES TO INCLUDE TRANSPORTERS

**Public Proposal**  
**Department Position:** Opposed

[illegible]

1

1



## Proposal 85

## Migratory Game Bird Guide


## CURRENT REGULATIONS

**5 AAC 92.013. Migratory bird hunting guide services.**

- (a) A migratory bird hunting guide shall register each year with the department before providing migratory bird hunting guide services by submitting to the department a completed migratory bird hunting guide registration form provided by the department that includes at least the following information at the time of registration:
  - (1) the name...address...phone number of the migratory bird hunting guide
  - (2) the areas in which the migratory bird hunting guide will operate; and
  - (3) the name...of any business that employs the migratory bird hunting guide
- (b) A person engaged in providing migratory bird hunting services must have in possession a copy of a validated migratory bird guide hunting registration form for the current year
- (c) For purposes of this section,
  - (1) "migratory bird hunting guide" means a person who provides migratory bird hunting guide services;
  - (2) "migratory bird hunting guide services" means to assist, for compensation or with the intent to receive compensation, a migratory bird hunter to take or attempt to take migratory birds by accompanying or personally directing the hunter in migratory bird hunting activities;
  - (3) "person" includes a business entity

2

2



Proposal 85

Migratory Game Bird Guide

PROPOSED CHANGES TO REGULATIONS

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5 AAC 92.013. Migratory bird hunting guide services.


(c) For purposes of this section,

(1) “migratory bird hunting guide” means a person who provides migratory bird hunting guide services;

(2) “migratory bird hunting guide services” means to assist **or transport**, for compensation or with the intent to receive compensation, a migratory bird hunter to take or attempt to take migratory birds by accompanying, **transporting** or personally directing the hunter in migratory bird hunting activities;

(3) “person” includes a business entity **or affiliated services such as water taxi, air taxi, fishing charter outfitters; combo hunting/fishing boats; or lodges; when serving small game hunters to, from, or in the field; their equipment; or migratory birds harvested.**

3



Proposal 85

Migratory Game Bird Guide


CONSIDERATIONS

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- Board adopted department proposal to establish regulation requiring migratory game bird guides to register with the department
  - Means of tracking guide activity in the state
  - Outreach
- Registration modeled after Sport Fish Division angler guide registration
  - Guide services defined as – accompanying or physically directing the sport angler in fishing activities’
  - Affiliated services like air taxis, water taxis or lodges are not required to register with the department if only providing transport services to anglers
- Registering affiliated services transporting migratory game bird hunters provides no apparent benefit to resource management

4






Proposal 86

Sea duck harvest survey

CURRENT REGULATIONS

- No current regulations that stipulate mandatory reporting of sea duck harvest in Alaska
- 5 AAC 92.018. Waterfowl conservation tag.  
A person required to possess an Alaska waterfowl conservation tag or ‘stamp’ under AS 16.05.340(a)(17) shall
  - (1) register in the Migratory Bird Harvest Information Program and carry proof of that registration while hunting migratory birds

7




Proposal 86

Sea duck harvest survey

PROPOSED REGULATION CHANGES

- Proposal would require new regulation that mandates reporting of sea duck harvest statewide
- Require the department to develop and implement a reporting system
- Proposal indicates achieve more accurate harvest estimates of sea ducks in Alaska

8

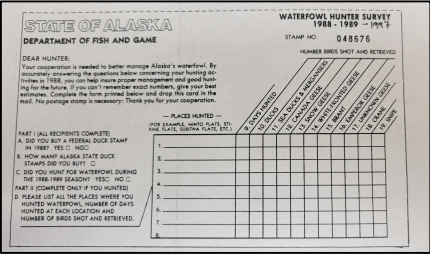


Proposal 86


Sea duck harvest survey

STATEWIDE MIGRATORY BIRD  
HARVEST SURVEY

- Statewide migratory game bird harvest survey 1971-1997
- Voluntary survey to record harvest of ducks, sea ducks, geese, cranes, and snipe
- Hunters not required to speciate ducks



9



Proposal 86


Sea duck harvest survey

NATIONAL MIGRATORY BIRD  
HARVEST SURVEY

3 components to estimate annual harvest and hunter activity

- 1. HIP registration questionnaire provides sampling framework
- 2. Diary Survey of hunter harvest – provides harvest estimates of species groups
- 3. Parts Collection Survey – allows calculation of species-and age-specific harvest estimates

10




Proposal 86

Sea duck harvest survey

STATEWIDE SEA DUCK HARVEST SURVEY

- Registration hunt with mandatory reporting to achieve ‘accurate harvest numbers’
- May obtain more accurate and precise harvest estimates for the sea duck group
- Identification by hunters can be difficult – species, sex, or age
- Need to implement a system of validation like a statewide PCS to estimate species-specific harvest
- A PCS would likely be voluntary, costly and labor-intensive to implement
- Difficult to structure a PCS without bias

11

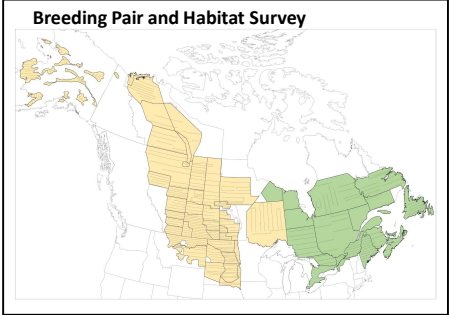


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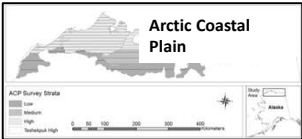
Sea duck harvest survey

WATERFOWL POPULATION  
STATUS AND TRENDS IN ALASKA

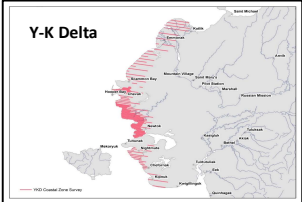
Breeding Pair and Habitat Survey




Arctic Coastal Plain



Y-K Delta



12



Proposal 86

Sea duck harvest survey

PARTIAL SEA DUCK POPULATION  
ASSESSMENTS IN ALASKA

Distribution

- Many sea duck populations breed in Canada and Russia
- Surveys designed for other waterfowl species


Survey Timing

- Sea ducks tend to breed later than other species
- Survey timing is often in advance of sea duck breeding chronology

Species ID

- Speciation difficult from the air
- Some species counted as a group (e.g., scoters, mergansers)

13




Proposal 86

Sea duck harvest survey

CONSIDERATIONS

- National Harvest Survey provides national, flyway, and statewide estimates of sea duck harvest
- A secondary survey at the statewide level is uncertain to provide ‘more accurate’ species-specific harvest estimates
- A statewide PCS would be needed but costly and difficult to structure without sample bias
- Lack context from comprehensive population status and trends of huntable sea ducks in Alaska

14



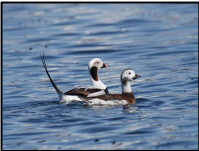



Proposal 86


Sea duck harvest survey

Public Proposal

Department Position: Opposed



15



Proposal 87

Unlawful methods


RESTRICT BOAT USE FOR HUNTING WATERFOWL

Public Proposal

Department Recommendation: Neutral

16





**Proposal 87**


**Unlawful methods**

**CURRENT REGULATIONS**

Federal Regulations:  
No persons shall take migratory game birds:

- From or by means of any motorboat or other craft having a motor attached, or any sailboat, unless the motor has been completely shutoff and/or sails furled, and its progress therefrom has ceased: *Provided*, that a craft under power may be used to retrieve dead or crippled birds; however crippled birds may not be shot from craft under power
- By means or aid of any motor-driven land, water or air conveyance used for the purpose of or resulting in concentrating, driving, rallying, or stirring up of any migratory bird

17



**Proposal 87**

**Unlawful methods**

**CURRENT REGULATIONS**


State Regulations:  
The following methods and means of taking waterfowl, snipe, and cranes are prohibited:

- From a motor driven boat unless the motor has been completely shut off and the boat’s progress from the motor’s power has ceased
- From any mechanical vehicle; however, a power or sailboat may be used as a means of retrieving a dead or injured bird

The following methods of taking game are prohibited:

- Use of a motorized vehicle to harass game or for the purpose of driving, herding, or molesting game

18



Proposal 87

Unlawful methods


PROPOSED REGULATIONS

State Regulations:

The following methods and means of taking waterfowl, snipe, and cranes are prohibited:

- From any mechanical vehicle; however, a power or sailboat may be used **only** as a **direct** means of retrieving a dead or injured bird; **all boats shall remain stationary throughout the duration of the hunt, beached or anchored, within 100 yards of those discharging firearms to eliminate driving, herding, or chasing migratory birds into hunters on land, or on other boats.**

19



Proposal 87


Unlawful methods

CONSIDERATIONS

- The amended regulation would require boat operators unaffiliated with hunters to identify hunting parties and reroute travel
- If hunters rely on boats to retrieve downed birds, they would be required to suspend retrieval until the hunt is terminated – risks loss

Current federal and state regulations are adequate to prohibit unfair use of boats, but any violation is best addressed through enforcement

20



Proposal 87

Unlawful methods

RESTRICT BOAT USE FOR HUNTING WATERFOWL

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Public Proposal

Department Recommendation: Neutral

21