

PROPOSAL 154

5 AAC 85.065. Hunting seasons and bag limits for small game.

Change the bag limits for sea ducks in Unit 15C as follows:

What solution do you recommend? In other words, if the board adopted your solution, what would the new regulation say?

In the waterfowl regulations:

GULF COAST Units 5-7, 9, 10 (Unimak Is. only), 14-16

Ducks 18 per day, 24 in possession

Sea Ducks 2, 3, 4

Residents.....10 per day, 20 in possession

Nonresidents.....8 per day, 20 per season

Special Bag Limit Restrictions

1 DUCKS: General duck limits may include no more than 2 canvasback per day, 6 in possession.

2 SEA DUCKS:

- Steller's and spectacled eiders are closed statewide.
- Residents may take no more than 6 per day, 12 in possession of harlequin ducks and no more than 6 per day, 12 in possession of long-tailed ducks.
- Nonresidents may not take or possess more than 20 sea ducks per season, including no more than 4 each of any sea duck species.

~~3. Units 7 and 15, limits for residents and nonresidents may include no more than 1 per day, 2 in possession of long-tailed ducks.~~

~~4. Unit 15C, that portion of Kachemak Bay east of a line from Point Pogibshi to Anchor Point, limits for residents and nonresidents may include no more than 2 per day, 4 in possession of harlequin, and no more than 1 per day, 2 in possession of eiders (king or common). In addition, nonresidents may not take or possess more than 4 each of any sea duck species.~~

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?

Uniformity for migratory waterfowl regulations for sea ducks among all Alaska regions for the same migratory sea duck species.

Weather patterns determine where the ducks go with much of Unit 15's coastline not hunted and holds birds most cannot access or survey through the designated duck season.

People tend to hunt the protected waters of Seldovia Bay or China Poot. There are nine large bays beyond Port Graham that are too remote to observe duck populations as well as the continuing shoreline. There are other open areas where there are mussel beds that are difficult to hunt due to open water and distance from the shoreline.

The number of birds vary due to weather being the primary factor of finding open water. Wind strength, direction and tide cycles are daily factors on finding sea ducks. Time of year for observing any ducks also determines the density. Fall flocks of family groups verses winter flocks of higher density feeding groups versus spring when mature birds begin pairing off. It is wrong to assume ducks are in the same place and have the same social structure year-round.

Sea duck hunting in Unit 15C is light pressure and shows with the lack of operating sea duck guides/transporters compared to other areas in the Southcentral Alaska region. The duck population is healthy and to say that it is not would risk the entire state's sea duck population, since they are migratory.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local fish and game advisory committee?

With waterfowl hunters on social media regarding previous years' Unit 15C proposals.

PROPOSED BY: Ethan Waldvogel (HQ-F25-005)
