

# Who to Contact for Your Area:

## Alaska Migratory Bird Co-Management Council - Regional Representatives

### **Assoc. of Village Council Presidents (Yukon/Kuskokwim Delta Region)**

Roland White, P.O. Box 219, Bethel, AK 99559

Tel: Wk 907/543-7471; Fax: 907/543-3596; Email: rwhite@avcp.org

### **Bristol Bay Native Association (Bristol Bay Region)**

Gayla Hoseth, P.O. Box 310, Dillingham, AK 99576

Tel: 907/842-6252; Fax: 907/842-5932; Email: ghoseth@bbna.com

### **Chugach Regional Resources Commission (Gulf of Alaska Region)**

Priscilla Evans, P.O. Box 8028, Nanwalek, AK 99603

Tel: 907/281-2274, Fax: 907/281-2252; priscillajevans@yahoo.com

### **Ahtna Intertribal Resource Commission (Upper Copper River Region)**

Gloria Stickwan (Acting), P.O. Box 87, Glennallen, AK 99588

Tel: 907/822-3476; Fax: 907/822-3495; Email: gstickwan@ahtna-inc.com

### **Kawerak, Inc. (Bering Straits/Norton Sound Region)**

Jack Fagerstrom, Box 62020, Golovin, AK 99762

Tel: 907/779-2214, Fax: 907/779-2829; Email: tc.glv@kawerak.org

### **Aleutian/Pribilof Islands Assoc. (Aleutian/Pribilof Islands Region)**

Peter Devine, c/o Qagan Tayagungin Tribal Office, Sand Point, AK 99661

Tel: 907/383-5616; Fax: 907/383-5814; Email: buffalopeter@hotmail.com

### **Sun'aq Tribe of Kodiak (Kodiak Archipelago Region)**

Melissa Berns, Box 46, Old Harbor, AK 99643

Tel: 907/202-1139; fax 907/286-2287; Email: mberns@oldharbor.org

### **Maniilaq Assoc. (Northwest Arctic Region)**

Cyrus Harris, Kotzebue, AK 99752

Tel: 907/442-7914; Fax: 907/442-7703; Email: charris@maniilaq.org

### **North Slope Borough (North Slope Region)**

Taqulik Hepa, P.O. Box 69, Barrow, AK 99723

Tel: 907/852-0350; Fax: 907/852-0351; Email: taqulik.hepa@north-slope.org

### **Tanana Chiefs Conference (Interior Region)**

Randy Mayo, P.O. Box 74319, Fairbanks, AK 99707

Tel: 907/978-1670; Fax: N/A; Email: randyamayo@gmail.com

## Co-Management Council - Executive Director

Patty Schwalenberg, 1840 Bragaw St., Ste 150, Anchorage, AK 99508  
907/334-0113, Fax: 907/334-9005, Email: patty@crrealaska.org

Tel:

# General Overview

This booklet is a simplified informative summary of the 2018 Alaska subsistence spring/summer migratory bird harvest regulations contained in 50 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 92. There may be errors or omissions that have not been identified and regulatory changes that occur after printing. This booklet is intended as an informational guide only. To be certain of current regulations, refer to the official CFR and the Federal Register publications, available at the website <http://alaska.fws.gov/ambcc/regulations.htm>

Effective upon publication of the Final Rule in the Federal Register, these regulations apply to the spring and summer subsistence harvest of migratory birds in Alaska, **April 2 through August 31, 2018**. The Alaska Migratory Bird Co-management Council (Council) reviews and recommends needed modifications to these regulations on an annual basis.

Migratory bird hunting from September 1, 2018 through March 10, 2019 is managed under separate Federal regulations in 50 CFR Part 20 and State regulations in 5 AAC 85. 065

For more information contact: Office of the Alaska Migratory Bird Co-Management Council, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, 1011 E. Tudor Rd., MS 201, Anchorage, AK 99503

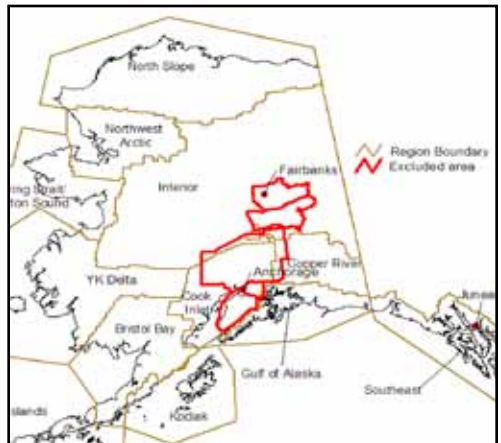
Voice: Council Staff (907) 786-3499; Fax: (907) 786-3641; Email: [ambcc@fws.gov](mailto:ambcc@fws.gov)

## Who is Eligible to Participate?

If you are a **permanent** resident (see definition pg. 19) of a village within an included harvest area, you are eligible to harvest migratory birds and eggs for subsistence purposes.

## Included Areas/Villages

Village areas located within the Alaska Peninsula, Kodiak Archipelago, the Aleutian Islands, or areas north and west of the Alaska Range are subsistence harvest areas. Additional communities added include: Gulkana, Gakona, Tazlina, Copper Center, Mentasta Lake, Chitina, Chistochina, Tatitlek, Chenega, Port Graham, Nanwalek, Tyonek, Hoonah, Craig, Hydaburg, Yakutat, and Cordova.



## **Excluded Areas**

Persons living in the Anchorage-Matanuska-Susitna Borough, the Central Interior Excluded Area, or the Kenai Peninsula roaded area are excluded from participating. Maps are included in the regional sections of this book. In the Gulf of Alaska, Copper River, Cook Inlet, or Southeast Alaska, only residents of previously listed included communities can participate in the harvest.

Anyone can petition the Council to change a community's exclusion/inclusion status. The petition must address how the area does or does not meet the qualifying criteria for inclusion. Upon receipt, the Council will seek regional input and submit a recommendation to the Service Regulations Committee to consider including or excluding the community from the subsistence harvest.

### **Participation by residents of excluded areas**

Immediate family members who are residents of excluded areas may participate in the subsistence migratory bird harvest in a village's subsistence area with permission of the village council, to assist eligible residents of included areas in meeting their nutritional and other essential needs or for the teaching of cultural knowledge. A letter of invitation will be sent by the village council to the hunter with a copy to the Executive Director of the Co-management Council.

## **Subsistence Harvest Areas**

All lands within the included areas are open for harvest, although special requirements apply to National Park Service areas, as explained below.

### **Special Requirements for Natl. Parks & Preserves**

Subsistence use on National Park Service areas is restricted to only those national monuments, parks, and preserves open to subsistence. Glacier Bay National Park, Katmai National Park, Kenai Fjords National Park, Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park, "old" McKinley National Park and Sitka National Historical Park are closed to subsistence. National Park Service regulations govern which communities or individual residents qualify to subsistence harvest for specific National Parks and Monuments (50 CFR Part 13, Subparts A, B, and C). For more information about National Park Service areas contact: National Park Service, 240 West 5th Ave., Room 114, Anchorage, AK 99501, (907) 644-3509.

## Use and Possession of Migratory Birds

**You may not sell, offer for sale, purchase, or offer to purchase migratory birds, their parts, or eggs, except as provided in this section.**

- **Eligible persons.** You may take birds for human consumption only. Harvest of birds must be done using nonwasteful taking. Edible meat of migratory birds may be given to immediate family members of eligible persons. Inedible byproducts of birds taken for food may be used for other purposes, except **taxidermy is not allowed**, and these by products may only be given to other eligible persons or Alaska Natives.
- **Noneligible persons.** You may receive portions of birds or their eggs not kept for human consumption from eligible persons only if you have a valid U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service permit for scientific research or education.

## Required Licenses and Stamps

The license requirements outlined below are a matter of law and should not be construed as having been adopted or endorsed by the Alaska Migratory Bird Co-management Council.

- ***Federal Duck Stamps are not required to participate in this harvest.***
- Waterfowl hunters over 18 years or older are required to have a State hunting license and State Duck Stamp, except disabled veterans, those 60 years or older and those that qualify for a low income license.
- State stamps and hunting licenses are available from State license vendors, ADF&G offices or online at: <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/store/>
- State Duck stamps must be signed in ink across the face and must be carried at all times while hunting waterfowl, but are not required for hunting non-waterfowl species.

## Shooting Hours

The harvest is open 24-hours per day.

## Seasonal Closures

In Alaska, all seasonal closures apply to both hunting and egg gathering, unless specified otherwise.



## Prohibited Harvest Methods and Means

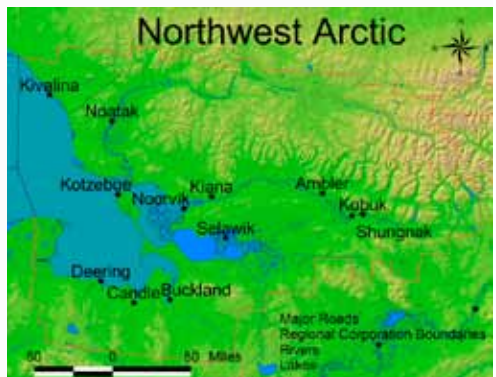
You may not use the following devices and methods to harvest migratory birds:

- Swivel guns, shotguns larger than 10 gauge; punt, battery or machine guns, fish hooks, poisons, drugs, explosives, or stupefying substances
- Shooting from a sinkbox or low-floating device that conceals the hunter beneath the surface of the water.
- Hunting from any type of aircraft.
- Hunting with the aid of recorded bird calls.
- Using live birds as decoys, except for auklets on Diomedea and St. Lawrence Islands
- Using any vehicle, aircraft, or boat to concentrate, drive, rally, or stir up any migratory birds; however, boats may be used to position a hunter
- The possession or use of lead or other toxic shot while hunting
- Shooting from or across any road or highway
- Using an air boat or jet ski for hunting or transporting hunters (prohibited in Interior & Bristol Bay Regions only)
- In the Y/K Region only, using private or chartered aircraft for hunting or transporting hunters, except for transportation between public airstrips
- Hunting with the aid of baiting, or over any baited area, where a person knows or reasonably should know that the area has been baited

## Region-Specific Regulations (Open Seasons)

**Northwest Arctic Region, Seasons:**

- April 2- June 14, July 16-August 31 (hunting - in general)
- April 2 - June 14 (waterfowl egg gathering)
- May 20 - July 12 (seabird egg gathering)
- July 1 - July 15 (hunting molting /non-nesting waterfowl)



**Closure: June 15 - July 15 except for non-nesting waterfowl.**

## Gulf of Alaska Region

### Prince William Sound - West

**Harvest area:** GMU 6 (D)

**Eligible communities:**  
Chenega Bay and Tatitlek

**Season:** April 2 - May 31  
and July 1 - August 31;

**Closure:** June 1 - June 30



### Kachemak Bay Area

**Harvest area:** GMU 15[C] South of a line connecting the tip of Homer Spit to the mouth of Fox River

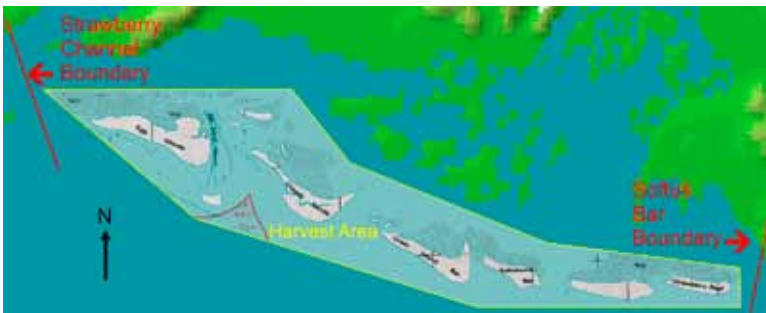
**Eligible Communities:** Port Graham, Nanwalek

**Season:** April 2 - May 31 and July 1 - August 31

**Closure:** June 1 - June 30

### Prince William Sound - East

**Harvest area:** Barrier islands between Strawberry Channel & Softtuk Bar within GMU 6 (B & C);



**Eligible community:** Cordova, Tatitlek and Chenega Bay - by Special Registration Permit only

**Season:** April 2–April 30 (hunting); May 1–May 31 (gull egg gathering)

**Closure:** May 1–August 31 (hunting); April 2–30 and June 1–August 31 (gull egg gathering).

**Species Open for Hunting:** greater white-fronted goose; snow goose; gadwall; Eurasian and American wigeon; blue-winged and green-winged teal; mallard; northern shoveler; northern pintail; canvasback; redhead; ring-necked duck; greater and lesser scaup; king and common eider; harlequin duck; surf, white-winged, and black scoter; long-tailed duck; bufflehead; common and Barrow’s goldeneye; hooded, common, and red-breasted merganser; and sandhill crane.

**Species open for egg gathering:** glaucous-winged, herring, and mew gulls.

**No hunting from motorized vehicles or any form of watercraft.**

**Aleutian/Pribilof Islands Region**

**Northern Unit (Pribilofs)**

Season: April 2-June 30

**Closure: July 1-Aug. 31**

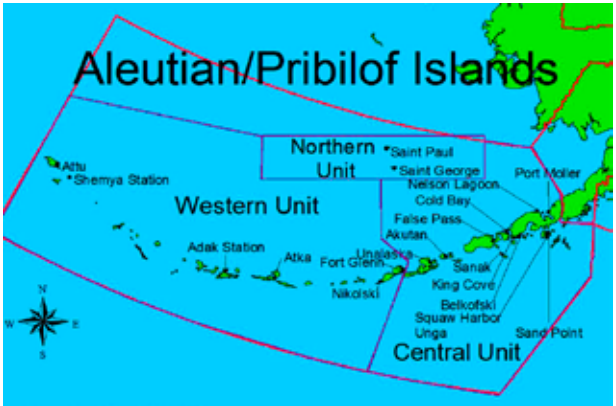
**Central Unit (Port Moller west to include Unalaska Island)**

Season: April 2- June 15 and July 16 - August 31

**Closure: June 16 - July 15**

**Tundra Swan Closure:** Hunting/egg gathering closed in GMUs 9(D) & 10

**Black Brant Season Closure:** August 16 - 31, for Izembek and Moffet lagoons



**Western Unit (Umnak Island west to include Attu Island)**

Season: April 2 - July 15 and August 16 - August 31

**Closure: July 16 - August 15**

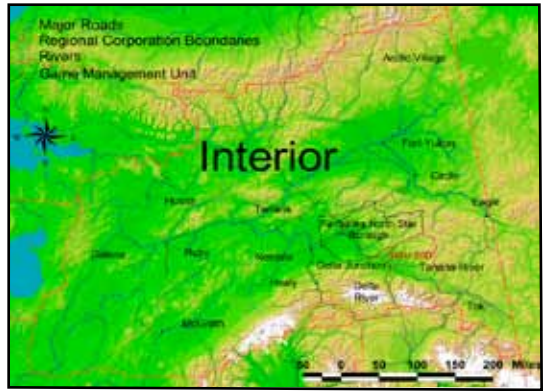


## Interior Region

Season: April 2 - June 14 and  
July 16 - August 31

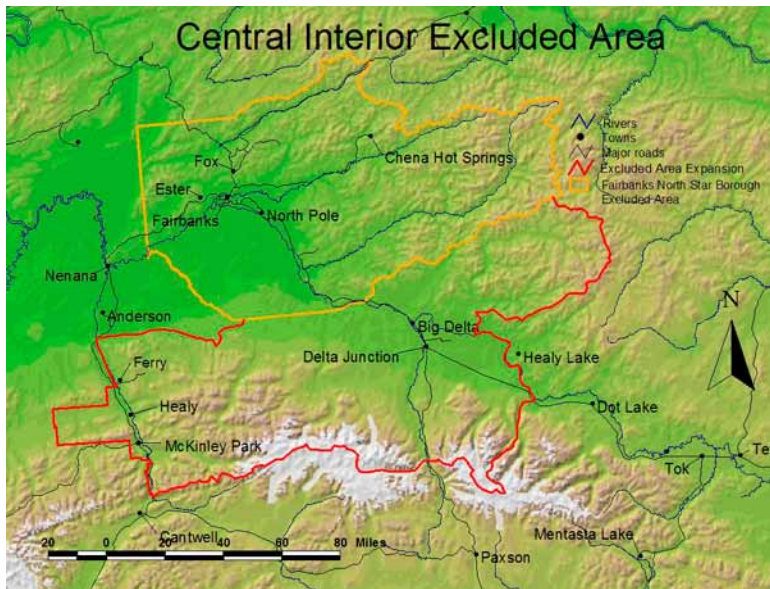
May 1 - June 14 for egg gathering

Closure: June 15 - July 15



Note: The Central Interior **Excluded** Area includes the Fairbanks-North Star Borough and was expanded to that portion of GMU 20 (A) east of the Wood River drainage and south of Rex Trail, including the upper Wood River drainage south of its confluence with Chicken Creek; that portion of GMU 20(C) east of Denali National Park north to Rock Creek and east to GMU 20(A), and that portion of GMU 20(D) west of the Tanana River between its confluence with the Johnson and Delta Rivers, west of the east bank of the Johnson River, and north and west of the Volkmar drainage, including the Goodpaster River drainage.

**Area residents of the Fairbanks-North Star Borough, Delta Junction/Big Delta/Fort Greely, Healy, McKinley Park/Village, and Ferry are excluded from participating in this harvest.**





## Yukon/Kuskokwim Delta Region

Season: April 2- August 31

Closure: 30-day closure  
Dates to be announced\*

Special Black Brant & Cackling Canada Goose  
Season Closure: From the period when egg laying begins until young birds are fledged. Dates to be announced \*



\*ALL closure dates to be announced by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Regional Director or his designee, after consultation with field biologists and the Association of Village Council Presidents's Waterfowl Conservation Committee. Announcements will be broadcast over the local public radio stations.

## Bering Straits/Norton Sound Region

Stebbins/St. Michael Area  
(Point Romanof to Canal Point)

Season: April 15 - June 14  
and July 16 - August 31

Closure: June 15 - July 15

Remainder of the region

Season: April 2 - June 14  
and July 16 - August 31 for waterfowl

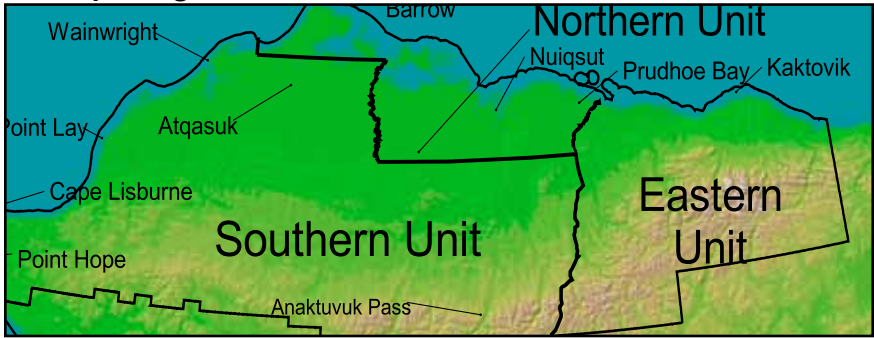
April 2 - July 19 and August 21 - August 31 for all other bird

Closure: June 15 - July 15 for waterfowl

July 20 - August 20 for all other birds



## North Slope Region



**Southern Unit** (Southwestern North Slope regional boundary east to Peard Bay, everything west of the longitude line 158°30'W and south of the latitude line 70°45'N to west bank of the Ikpikpuk River, and everything south of the latitude line 69°45'N between the west bank of the Ikpikpuk River to the east bank of Sagavanirktok River)

Season: April 2 - June 29 and July 30 - August 31 for seabirds

April 2 - June 19 and July 20 - August 31 for all other birds

**Closure:** June 30 - July 29 for seabirds

June 20 - July 19 for all other birds

**Eastern Unit** (East of east bank of the Sagavanirktok River)

Season: April 2 - June 19 and July 20 - August 31

**Closure:** June 20 - July 19

**Northern Unit** (At Peard Bay, everything east of the longitude line 158°30'W and north of the latitude line 70°45'N to west bank of the Ikpikpuk River, and everything north of the latitude line 69°45'N between the west bank of the Ikpikpuk River to the east bank of the Sagavanirktok River)

Season: April 2-June 6 and July 7-August 31 for king & common eiders

April 2 - June 15 and July 16 - August 31 for all other birds

**Closure:** June 7- July 6 for king & common eiders

June 16 - July 15 for all other birds

**All North Slope Units: Yellow-billed loons** - Yellow-billed loons that are inadvertently entangled in fishing gill nets can be kept for subsistence use. Individuals must report each yellow-billed loon found entangled in fishing nets to the North Slope Borough Dept. of Wildlife (907/852-0350) by the end of the season

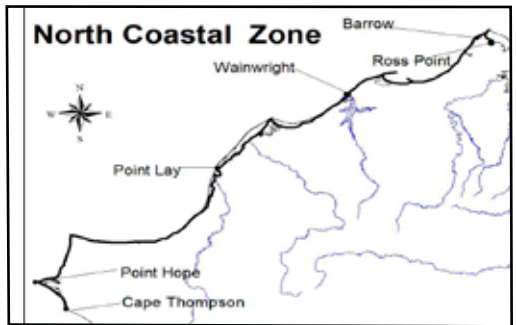
**Special Black Brant Hunting Season:** From June 20 - July 5. The open area consists of the coastline, from mean high water line outward to include open water, from Nokotlek Point east to Longitude 158° 30'W. This includes Peard Bay, Kugrua Bay, and Wainwright Inlet, but not the Kuk and Kugrua river drainages.



**North Coastal Zone** (Cape Thompson north to Point Hope and east along the Arctic Ocean coastline around Point Barrow to Ross Point, including Iko Bay, and 5 miles inland).

1) Upon request by a U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service law enforcement officer, hunters must present any migratory birds taken (for species identification).

2) No person may possess any migratory bird or part that is not taken according to the regulations.



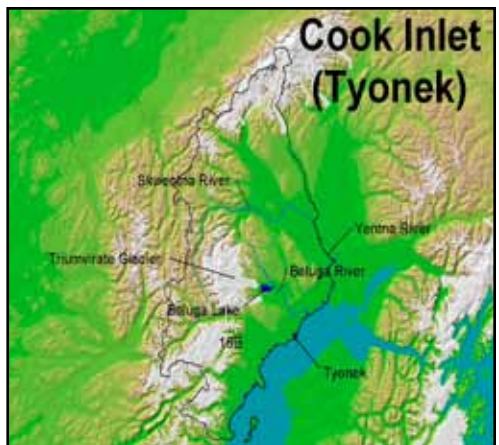
## Cook Inlet Area

**Harvest Area:** portions of GMU 16(B)

**Eligible community:** Tyonek

Season: April 2-May 31: That portion of GMU16(B) south of the Skwentna River and west of the Yentna River

Season: August 1-31: That portion of GMU 16(B) south of the Beluga River, Beluga Lake, and the Triumvirate Glacier.





## Kodiak Archipelago Region

Season:

April 2 - June 30 and July  
31 - August 31 for seabirds

April 2 - June 20 and July  
22 - August 31 for all other  
birds

Closure:

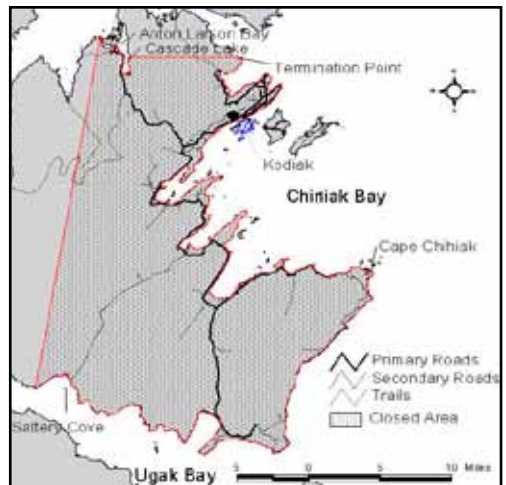
July 1 - 30 for seabirds;

June 21 - July 21 for all  
other birds



### Kodiak Island Roaded Area Closure:

the closed area consists of all lands and water (including exposed tidelands) east of a line extending from Crag Point in the north to the west end of Saltery Cove in the south and all lands and water south of a line extending from Termination Point along the north side of Cascade Lake extending to Anton Larsen Bay. Marine waters adjacent to the closed area are closed to harvest within 500 feet from the water's edge. Offshore islands (e.g. Woody, Long, Gull and Puffin) are open to harvest.





# Southeast Alaska Communities

## Community of Hoonah

**Harvest area:** National Forest lands in Icy Strait and Cross Sound, including Middle Pass Rock near the Inian Islands, Table Rock in Cross Sound, and other traditional locations on the coast of Yakobi Island. **All lands and waters within Glacier Bay National Park remain closed to the residents of Hoonah.**



Season: glaucous-winged gull egg gathering only: May 15 - June 30

**Closure: July 1 - August 31**

## Communities of Craig and Hydaburg

**Harvest area:** small islands west of Prince of Wales Island within GMU 2; including Warren Island to Cape Chacon



Season: glaucous-winged gull egg gathering only: May 15 - June 30

**Closure: July 1 - August 31**

## Community of Yakutat

**Harvest area:** Icy Bay [Icy Cape to Pt. Riou], and coastal lands and islands bordering the Gulf of Alaska from Pt. Manby southeast to and including Dry Bay.



Season: glaucous-winged gull egg gathering: May 15 - June 30

**Closure: July 1 - August 31**



# Protect Our *Steller's & Spectacled Eiders* - Don't Shoot Them!



David Sibley



Drawing: David Sibley



Photo: Glen Smart, USFWS



David Sibley



Photo: Tim Bowman, USFWS



Drawing: David Sibley



Photo: Ted Swann, USFWS

**Steller's Eiders:**  
caqiar, caqiaraq, ijniqauqtuq,  
aglekesegaq, igniqauqtuq

**Spectacled Eiders:**  
qavaasuk, iyegaatelek, quageq

*Steller's & Spectacled Eiders are illegal to hunt or harvest eggs statewide!*

*Steller's & Spectacled Eiders are illegal to hunt or harvest eggs statewide!*

# Migratory Birds Open for Harvest

You may harvest birds and gather eggs from the following species within all open regions, except southeast Alaska. **All bird species not listed are closed.** Some bird species were excluded from this list purely because of current population concerns and will be reopened if their population status improves.

## **Waterfowl**

- Greater White-fronted Goose
- Snow Goose
- Emperor Goose
- Canada Goose - **except closed in Prince William Sound East and the Semidi Islands**
- Black Brant - **except no egg gathering in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta and the North Slope.**
- Tundra Swan - **except closed in GMU 9(D) and 10.**
- Gadwall
- Eurasian Wigeon
- American Wigeon
- Mallard
- Blue-winged Teal
- Northern Shoveler
- Northern Pintail
- Green-winged Teal
- Canvasback
- Redhead
- Ring-necked Duck
- Greater Scaup
- Lesser Scaup
- King Eider
- Common Eider
- Harlequin Duck
- Surf Scoter
- White-winged Scoter
- Black Scoter
- Long-tailed Duck
- Bufflehead
- Common Goldeneye
- Barrow's Goldeneye
- Hooded Merganser

- Common Merganser
- Red-breasted Merganser

## **Waterbirds**

- Red-throated Loon
- Arctic Loon
- Pacific Loon
- Common Loon
- Yellow-billed Loon - **Closed except for limited opportunity only in the North Slope Region - See regional regulations (Page 12)**
- Horned Grebe
- Red-necked Grebe

## **Shorebirds**

- Black-bellied Plover
- Common Ringed Plover
- Black Oystercatcher
- Greater Yellowlegs
- Lesser Yellowlegs
- Spotted Sandpiper
- Ruddy Turnstone
- Long-billed Dowitcher
- Bar-tailed Godwit
- Semipalmated Sandpiper
- Western Sandpiper
- Least Sandpiper
- Baird's Sandpiper
- Sharp-tailed Sandpiper
- Dunlin
- Wilson's Snipe
- Red Phalarope
- Red-necked phalarope

## **Seabirds**

- Northern Fulmar
- Double-crested Cormorant
- Pelagic Cormorant
- Pomarine Jaeger
- Parasitic Jaeger
- Long-tailed Jaeger
- Bonaparte's Gull
- Mew Gull
- Herring Gull
- Slaty-backed Gull
- Glaucous-winged Gull
- Glaucous Gull
- Sabine's Gull
- Black-legged Kittiwake
- Red-legged Kittiwake
- Ivory Gull
- Arctic Tern
- Aleutian Tern

- Common Murre
- Thick-billed Murre
- Black Guillemot
- Pigeon Guillemot
- Cassin's Auklet
- Parakeet Auklet
- Least Auklet
- Whiskered Auklet
- Crested Auklet
- Rhinoceros Auklet
- Horned Puffin
- Tufted Puffin

## **Cranes**

- Sandhill Crane

## **Owls**

- Great Horned Owl
- Snowy Owl

## **Legislative History**

As early as 1916, Migratory Bird Treaties with Canada and Mexico failed to recognize Alaska's traditional spring/summer subsistence harvest. After negotiations, the treaties were amended in 1997. The Alaska Migratory Bird Co-Management Council was created, which included representatives from the Alaska Native community, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service acting as equal partners. The Council's primary purpose is to develop recommendations for the subsistence migratory bird harvest regulations. Eleven regional management bodies were created to provide local input to the Council on the bird harvest list, regional season dates, methods and means and other annual regulatory recommendations. Additional information on the Migratory Bird Treaties, the Council, harvest surveys, press releases and hunter bulletins can be found at <http://fws.gov/alaska/ambcc/index.htm>

# Emperor Geese

## As Our Elders Say, Hunt for the Future

Emperor goose populations declined hugely in early 1980s resulting in a closure of all legal hunting in 1987. Conservation efforts through co-management let the emperor goose population rebound allowing for the first legal hunt in 30 years! Emperor geese are now open for both hunting and egg gathering during this Alaska subsistence season.

Emperor goose populations have grown slowly to reach the level allowable for a legal harvest. They still remain vulnerable to overharvest so goose numbers will be reviewed annually and harvest restrictions will be considered if needed. Hunting conservatively will preserve this harvest opportunity for future generations.



## How YOU Can Help Conserve Emperor Goose Populations and Future Hunting Opportunities

- *Take juvenile birds instead of adults when possible. Adult emperor geese are the breeders that will be laying eggs and raising young.*
- *Don't harvest entire family groups, even if you have the chance.*
- *Target single emperor geese instead of shooting into flocks, to reduce injuries or unintentional mortalities.*
- *Only take an egg or two and leave the rest. Emperor geese don't renest or replace eggs within a season.*

**Authentic Native article of handicraft or clothing** means any item created by an Alaska Native to which edible parts of migratory birds authorized for use in handicrafts or clothing are incorporated and which is fashioned by hand, or with limited use of machines, provided no mass production occurs.

**Closures** mean the season is closed to all forms of harvest including hunting and egg gathering, unless specified otherwise.

**Edible meat** means the meat from the breast, back, thighs, legs, wings, gizzard and heart. The head, neck, feet, other internal organs, and skin are considered optional.

**Eligible person** means a permanent resident of an included community within a subsistence harvest area.

**Handicraft - Sale by consignment** means that an Alaska Native sends or supplies an authentic Native article of handicrafts or clothing to a person who sells the item for the Alaska Native. The consignment seller need not be an Alaska Native and the Alaska Native craftsman retains ownership of the item and will receive money for the item when it is sold.

**Immediate family** means spouse, children, parents, grandchildren, grandparents, siblings.

**Game Management Unit**, also referred to as GMU, means 1 of the 26 geographical areas listed in the codified State of Alaska hunting and trapping regulations and on maps of the Alaska State Game Management Units.

**Non-wasteful taking** means making a reasonable effort to retrieve all birds killed or wounded, and retaining all **edible meat** (See definition above) until the birds have been transported to the location where they will be consumed, processed, or preserved as human food.

**Permanent resident** means any person whose primary, physical address/permanent residence for the previous 12 months was within a subsistence harvest area in Alaska. Factors used to demonstrate a person's primary, permanent residence may include: the physical address listed on your Alaska Permanent Fund application; the physical address listed on your Alaska hunting license; an Alaska driver's license; voter registration; location of residences owned, rented, or leased; residence of spouse, minor children or dependents; tax documents; not claiming residence in another location for any purpose; and membership of a tribe in a subsistence harvest area. Mailing address alone is not proof of permanent residency.

**Seabirds** refers to all bird species within the families Alcidae, Laridae, Procellariidae, and Phalacrocoracidae (in general: gulls, kittiwakes, jaegers, murre, puffins, auklets, fulmars, and cormorants).

**Shorebirds** refers to all bird species within the families Charadriidae, Haematopodidae, and Scolopacidae (in general: sandpipers, plovers, oystercatchers, dunlin, godwits, turnstones, knots, and phalaropes).

**Subsistence** means the customary and traditional harvest or use of migratory birds and their eggs by eligible users for their own nutritional and other essential needs.

**Subsistence harvest areas** encompass customary and traditional hunting areas or villages in Alaska that qualify for a spring or summer subsistence harvest of migratory birds.

**Taxidermy** refers to birds preserved and mounted in life-like representations. Taxidermy does not include preserving bird parts to be integrated into traditional arts and crafts, such as use of skin or feathers for the making of clothing, ceremonial fans or regalia.

**Waterfowl** refers to all species within the family Anatidae (ducks, geese, swans).

**Village (or Community)** is defined as a permanent settlement with one or more year-round residents.

## Avian Health & Disease

Wild birds can carry many types of disease agents, including influenza viruses. Since 2006, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (Service) has sampled birds across Alaska for the highly pathogenic influenza virus, H5N1. To date this virus has not been found in North America. The risk of transmitting avian diseases to humans is low. However, we want to ensure that people remember to handle birds safely.

### **What are the handling precautions for wild birds?**

We should always practice good handling procedures while hunting or gathering eggs. To avoid possible exposure to disease agents (viruses, bacteria, etc.) follow the guidelines below:

- Use clean hunting habits, wash eggs, and cook the foods you get from birds.
- Don't handle birds that appear sick or you find dead.
- Don't eat, drink or smoke while cleaning birds
- Wash your hands with soap & water, alcohol wipes, or gel after cleaning birds
- Clean all tools and surfaces with hot soapy water first, then disinfect using water mixed with 10% chlorine bleach.
- Keep dead birds cool, clean and dry.
- Cook your eggs and birds thoroughly (165°F) or until body juices run clear.

### **Contact Information**

Rural subsistence users would likely be the first to notice sick or dying wild birds, so please help our bird disease monitoring effort by calling toll-free [1-866-5BRDFLU \(1-866-527-3358\)](tel:1-866-5BRDFLU). Be prepared to report the location, species of birds involved, and date and time found. Again, for your safety, do not handle any sick birds or those found dead.