

# Emperor Goose

## *As Our Elders Say, Hunt for the Future*



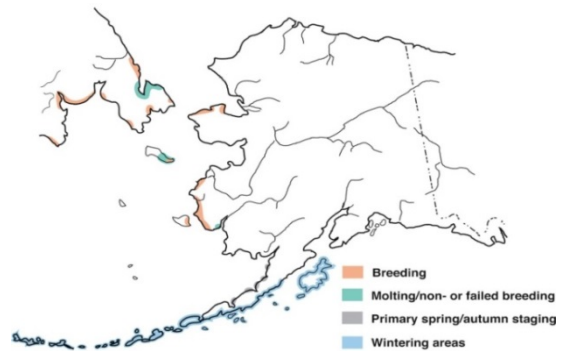
T. Zeller/USFWS

### Nacaullek Leghleq Ligliqpak Mitilgruaq

A subsistence hunt for emperor geese will open to rural Alaskans living in subsistence eligible areas beginning in spring of 2017 (April 2 through August 31). Emperor goose populations declined significantly in early 1980's resulting in a closure of any hunting in 1987. Conservation efforts through co-management let the emperor goose population rebound allowing for the first legal hunt in 30 years!

#### What Is Special About Emperor Geese?

The emperor goose is truly "Alaska's Goose"! Eighty percent of the world's emperor geese breed along the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta coast, with the remaining nesting along coastal areas of northwest Alaska and in Siberia. Most emperor geese tough out the winter along the Alaska Peninsula, the Aleutian Islands, and Kodiak Island. They spend the majority of their life in Alaska; some only venturing to Russia to molt.

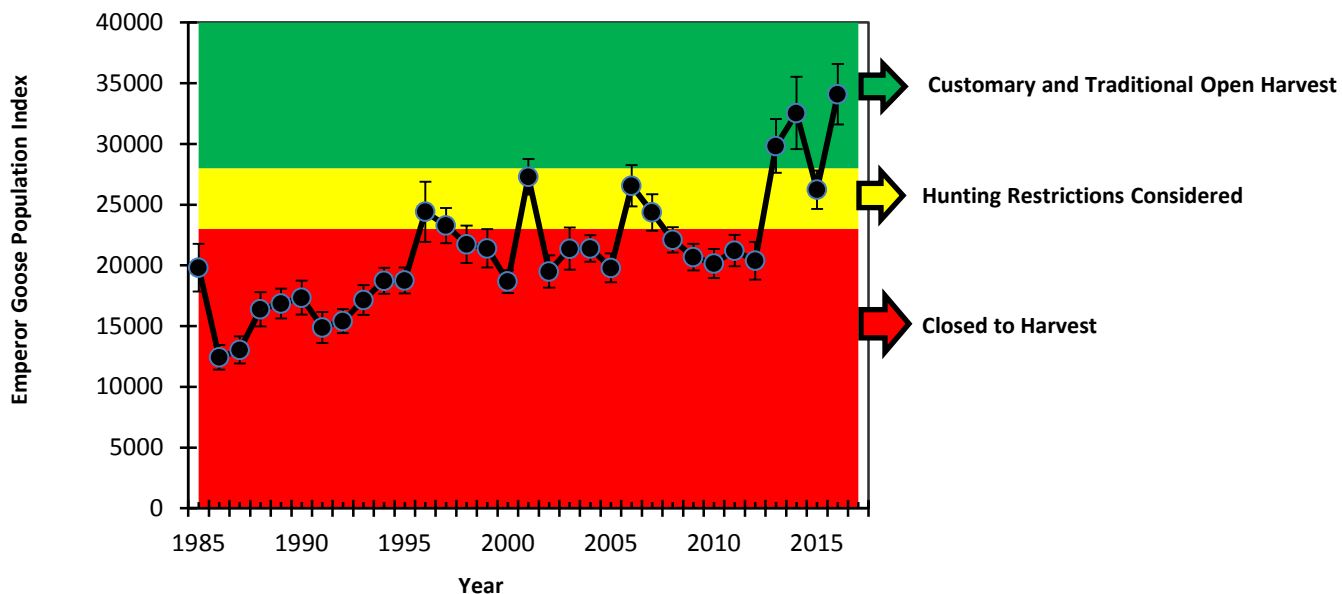


Annual Range of Emperor Geese

#### 2017 Spring/Summer Subsistence Harvest

Emperor goose populations have grown slowly and have only recently reached the level for customary and traditional hunting to be allowed again under spring/summer subsistence regulations. Emperor geese remain vulnerable to overharvest and the Alaska Migratory Bird Co-Management Council will review population and harvest data annually and implement restrictions if needed. Hunting conservatively will help to ensure future generations have the opportunity to harvest this special bird.

#### Spring/Summer Harvest Management Plan for Emperor Geese

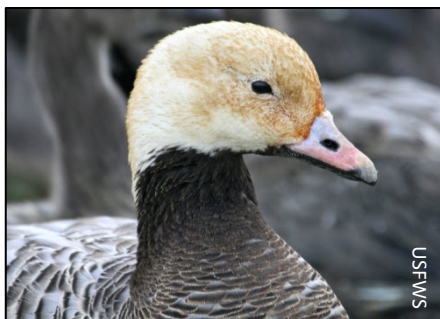


## 2017 Fall/Winter Harvest

There will be a fall/winter hunt that allows for the take of emperor geese under a registration permit system administered by the Alaska Department of Fish & Game. More details will be distributed at a future date.

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

- Take juvenile birds instead of adults when possible. Harvesting adult emperor geese will have the greatest negative impact on the population as these 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 flocks to reduce injuries or unintentional mortalities.
- Only take an egg or two and leave the rest. Emperor geese don't re-nest or replace eggs within a season.



#### For More Information

- Emperor Goose Management Plans
  - AMBCC: <https://www.fws.gov/alaska/ambcc>
  - Pacific Flyway Council: [http://pacificflyway.gov/Documents/Eg\\_plan.pdf](http://pacificflyway.gov/Documents/Eg_plan.pdf)
- Spring/Summer Subsistence Harvest: Donna Dewhurst, USFWS/AMBCC, (907) 786-3499
  - Patty Schwalenberg, AMBCC Executive Director, (907) 334-0113
- Fall/Winter Harvest:
  - Jason Schamber, ADF&G, (907) 267-2206
- Schmutz, J. A., Margaret R. Petersen and R. F. Rockwell. (2011). Emperor Goose (*Chen canagica*), The Birds of North America (P. G. Rodewald, Ed.). Ithaca: Cornell Lab of Ornithology; Retrieved from the Birds of North America: <https://birdsna.org/Species-Account/bna/species/empgoo>  
DOI: [10.2173/bna.97](https://doi.org/10.2173/bna.97)

