

Historical Timeline Leading to Establishment of the Alaska Subsistence Spring/Summer Migratory Bird Harvest

- 1916** United States and Great Britain (on behalf of Canada) signed the Convention for the Protection of Migratory Birds in Canada and the United States (Canada Treaty).
- 1918** Migratory Bird Treaty Act passed by the U.S. Congress to implement the original migratory bird treaty with Canada. Amendments were made in later years to incorporate subsequent treaties with Mexico, Japan and Russia.
- 1936** United States and Mexico signed the Convention for the Protection of Migratory Birds and Game Mammals (Mexico Treaty).
- 1972** United States and Japan signed the Convention for the Protection of Migratory Birds and Game Mammals (Japan Treaty).
- 1976** United States and USSR signed the Convention for the Protection of Migratory Birds and Game Mammals (Russian Treaty).
- October 23, 1997** United States Senate approved for ratification protocols amending migratory bird treaties with Canada and Mexico.
- September 17, 1998** Fish and Wildlife Service published in the Federal Register a “Notice of Intent to Establish Management Bodies for the Development, Implementation, and Management of a Migratory Bird Subsistence Program in Alaska.” This officially initiated a “scoping” process involving public meetings throughout Alaska.
- July 1, 1999** Fish and Wildlife Service published in the Federal Register a “Notice of availability of a draft document entitled, ‘Forming Management Bodies to Implement Legal Spring and Summer Migratory Bird Subsistence Hunting in Alaska.’” This document offered four possible alternatives for establishing management bodies, and invited public comment. Public involvement continued with a series of briefings for interested groups, including the Federal Subsistence Resource Advisory Councils.
- August 31, 1999** Fish and Wildlife Service published in the Federal Register a “Notice of Updated Policy Regarding Harvest of Migratory Birds in Alaska Between March 10 and September 1.” Minor changes were made to the existing policy enabling the State Department to proceed with preparation to sign protocols with Canada and Mexico.

- October 7, 1999** Canadian and United States governments signed a protocol amending the 1916 Migratory Bird Convention.
- December 30, 1999** Mexican and United States governments signed a protocol amending the 1936 U.S.-Mexico Convention for the Protection of Migratory Birds.
- March 28, 2000** Fish and Wildlife Service published in the Federal Register a “Notice of Decision for Establishment of Management Bodies to Alaska to Develop Recommendations Related to the Spring/Summer Subsistence Harvest of Migratory Birds.
- April 24-26, 2000** Native Migratory Bird Working Group, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service met at Alyeska Resort to draft by-laws for the Alaska Migratory Bird Co-Management Council.
- Oct 30-Nov 1, 2000** First meeting of the Alaska Migratory Bird Co-management Council to adopt by-laws and begin the process of drafting regulations for spring/summer harvesting.
- December 17, 2001** The Co-management Council adopted Alaska Frameworks/Guidelines for development of regulations for the first harvest season.
- April 8, 2002** Proposed Rule for Procedural Regulations is published in the Federal Register.
- May 14, 2002** Regional Management Bodies submitted recommendations for the 2003 harvest within their regions. The Co-management Council met to make final recommendations on details for the 2003 harvest season.
- August 16, 2002** Final Rule for Procedural Regulations is published in the Federal Register.
- October 24, 2002** The Co-management Council’s harvest recommendations were initially presented to the Service Regulations Committee (SRC) on August 31, 2002, with final SRC action on October 24, 2002.
- February 10, 2003** Proposed Rule for 2003 Annual Harvest Regulations is published in the Federal Register.
- July 21, 2003** Final Rule for 2003 Annual Harvest Regulations is published in the Federal Register - Officially Opening the First Legal Harvest Season