

## U.S. Fish and Wildlife Serv., Interior

## § 92.1

advise the judges of any serious anatomical problems and/or any serious design problems for the engraver.

(g) In the second round of judging, each entry selected in the first round, plus the additional entries selected by judges, will be shown one at a time to the judges by the Contest Coordinator or by a contest staff member. The judges will vote by indicating a numerical score from one to five for each entry. The scores will be totaled to provide the entry score. The entries receiving the five highest scores will be advanced to the third round of judging.

(h) In the third round of judging, the judges will vote on the remaining entries using the same method as in round two, except they would indicate a numerical score from 3 to 5 for each entry. The Contest Coordinator will tabulate the final votes and present them to the Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, who will announce the winning entry as well as the entries that placed second and third.

(i) In case of a tie vote for first, second, or third place in the third round, the judges will vote again on the entries that are tied. The judges will vote using the same method as in round three.

(j) The selection of the winning entry by the judges will be final. Each contestant will be notified of the winning artist and the design. The winning artist will receive a pane of Duck Stamps signed by the Secretary of the Interior at the Federal Duck Stamp Contest the following year. The artists placing first, second, and third will receive a framed commendation from the Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

[53 FR 16344, May 6, 1988, as amended at 56 FR 22816, May 16, 1991; 61 FR 25156, May 20, 1996]

### Subpart D—Post-Contest Procedures

#### § 91.31 Return of entries after contest.

All entries will be returned by certified mail to the participating artists within 120 days after the contest, unless the artwork is selected to appear at one or more wildlife art expositions. If artwork is returned to the Service because it is undelivered or unclaimed

(this may happen if an artist changes address), the Service will not be obligated to trace the location of the artist to return the artwork. Any artist who changes his or her address is responsible for notifying the Service of the change. All unclaimed entries will be destroyed one year from the date of the contest.

[56 FR 22816, May 16, 1991]

## PART 92—MIGRATORY BIRD SUBSISTENCE HARVEST IN ALASKA

### Subpart A—General Provisions

Sec.

- 92.1 Purpose of regulations.
- 92.2 Authority.
- 92.3 Applicability and scope.
- 92.4 Definitions.
- 92.5 Who is eligible to participate?
- 92.6 Use and possession of migratory birds.
- 92.7–92.9 [Reserved]

### Subpart B—Program Structure

- 92.10 Alaska Migratory Bird Co-management Council.
- 92.11 Regional management areas.
- 92.12 Relationship to the process for developing national hunting regulations for migratory game birds.
- 92.13–92.19 [Reserved]

### Subpart C—General Regulations Governing Subsistence Harvest

- 92.20 Methods and means.
- 92.21 Emergency closures.
- 92.22–92.29 [Reserved]

### Subpart D—Annual Regulations Governing Subsistence Harvest

- 92.30 General overview of regulations.
- 92.31–92.39 [Reserved]

AUTHORITY: 16 U.S.C. 703–712.

SOURCE: 67 FR 53517, Aug. 16, 2002, unless otherwise noted.

### Subpart A—General Provisions

#### § 92.1 Purpose of regulations.

The regulations in this part implement the Alaska migratory bird subsistence program as provided for in Article II(4)(b) of the 1916 Convention for the Protection of Migratory Birds in Canada and the United States (the “Canada Treaty”), as amended.

## § 92.2

### § 92.2 Authority.

The Secretary of the Interior issues the regulations in this part under the authority granted to the Secretary by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA), 16 U.S.C. 703-712.

### § 92.3 Applicability and scope.

(a) *In general.* The regulations in this part apply to all eligible persons harvesting migratory birds and their eggs for subsistence purposes in Alaska between the dates of March 10 and September 1. The provisions in this part do not replace or alter the regulations set forth in part 20 of this chapter, which relate to the hunting of migratory game birds and crows during the regular open season from September 1 through March 10. The provisions set forth in this part implement the exception to the closed season, which authorizes the taking of migratory birds in Alaska for subsistence purposes between March 10 and September 1.

(b) *Land ownership.* This part does not alter the legal authorities of Federal and State land managing agencies or the legal rights of private land owners to close their respective lands to the taking of migratory birds.

(c) *Federal public lands.* The provisions of this part are in addition to, and do not supersede, any other provision of law or regulation pertaining to national wildlife refuges or other federally managed lands.

(d) *Migratory bird permits.* The provisions of this part do not alter the terms of any permit or other authorization issued pursuant to part 21 of this chapter.

(e) *State laws for the protection of migratory birds.* No statute or regulation of the State of Alaska relieves a person from the restrictions, conditions, and requirements contained in this part. Nothing in this part, however, prevents the State of Alaska from making and enforcing laws or regulations that are consistent with the regulations in this part, the conventions between the United States and any foreign country for the protection of migratory birds, and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, and that give further protection to migratory birds.

## 50 CFR Ch. I (10-1-04 Edition)

### § 92.4 Definitions.

The following definitions apply to all regulations contained in this part:

*Alaska Native* means the same as “Native,” defined in section 3(b) of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, 16 U.S.C. 1602(b).

*Co-management Council* means the Alaska Migratory Bird Co-management Council, consisting of Alaska Native, Federal, and State of Alaska representatives as equals.

*Eligible person* means an individual within the State of Alaska who qualifies to harvest migratory birds and their eggs for subsistence purposes during the spring and summer.

*Excluded areas* are defined in § 92.5.

*Flyway Council* means the Atlantic, Mississippi, Central, or Pacific Flyway Council.

*Game Management Unit*, also referred to simply as *Unit*, 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.

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

*Included areas* are defined in § 92.5.

*Indigenous inhabitant* means a permanent resident of a village within a subsistence harvest area, regardless of race.

*Migratory bird*, for the purposes of this part, means the same as defined in § 10.12 of subchapter B of this chapter. Species eligible to harvest are listed in § 92.32.

*Native* means the same as “Alaska Native” as defined in this section.

*Nonwasteful taking* means making a reasonable effort to retrieve all birds killed or wounded, and retaining such birds in possession between the place where taken and the hunter’s permanent or temporary place of residence, or to the location where the birds will be consumed or preserved for food.

*Partner organization or regional partner* means a regional or local organization, or a local or tribal government that has entered into a formal agreement with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for the purpose of coordinating the regional programs necessary to involve subsistence hunters in the regulatory process described in this part.

*Permanent resident* means any person whose primary, permanent home for the previous 12 months was within a subsistence harvest area in Alaska. Whenever absent from this primary, permanent home, the person has the intention of returning to it. Factors demonstrating a person's primary, permanent home may include: an address listed on an Alaska Permanent Fund dividend application; an Alaska license to drive, hunt, fish, or engage in an activity regulated by a government entity; voter registration; location of residences owned, rented, or leased; location of stored household goods; the residence of the person's spouse, minor children, or dependents; tax documents; whether the person claims residence in another location for any purpose; or status as a tribal member of a tribe in a subsistence harvest area.

*Seabirds* refers to all bird species listed in § 92.32 within the families Alcidae, Laridae, Procellariidae, and Phalacrocoracidae.

*Service Regulations Committee* means the Migratory Bird Regulations Committee of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

*Shorebirds* refers to all bird species listed in § 92.32 within the families Charadriidae, Haematopodidae, and Scolopacidae.

*State* means State of Alaska.

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

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

*Taxidermy* refers to birds preserved and mounted in lifelike representations. Taxidermy does not include preserving bird parts to be integrated into traditional arts and crafts.

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

*Waterfowl* refers to all bird species listed in § 92.32 within the family Anatidae.

[67 FR 53517, Aug. 16, 2002, as amended at 68 FR 43027, July 21, 2003; 69 FR 17327, Apr. 2, 2004]

### § 92.5 Who is eligible to participate?

If you are a permanent resident of a village within a subsistence harvest area, you will be eligible to harvest migratory birds and their eggs for subsistence purposes in the spring and summer.

(a) *Included areas.* Village areas located within the Alaska Peninsula, Kodiak Archipelago, the Aleutian Islands, or in areas north and west of the Alaska Range are subsistence harvest areas, except that villages within these areas not meeting the criteria for a subsistence harvest area as identified in paragraph (c) of this section will be excluded from the spring and summer subsistence harvest.

(1) Any person may request the Co-management Council to recommend that an otherwise included area be excluded by submitting a petition stating how the area does not meet the criteria identified in paragraph (c) of this section. The Co-management Council will forward petitions to the appropriate regional management body for review and recommendation. The Co-management Council will then consider each petition and will submit to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service any recommendations to exclude areas from the spring and summer subsistence harvest. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will publish any approved recommendations to exclude areas in subpart D of this part.

(2) Based on petitions for inclusion recommended by the Co-management Council in 2003, the Service is adding the following communities to the included areas under this part starting in the 2004 harvest season:

(i) Upper Copper River Region—Gulkana, Gakona, Tazlina, Copper Center, Mentasta Lake, Chitina, Chistochina.

(ii) Gulf of Alaska Region—Chugach Community of Tatitlek, Chugach Community of Chenega, Chugach Community of Port Graham, Chugach Community of Nanwalek.

(iii) Cook Inlet Region—Tyonek.

(iv) Southeast Alaska Region—Hoonah.

(b) *Excluded areas.* Village areas located in Anchorage, the Matanuska-Susitna or Fairbanks North Star Boroughs, the Kenai Peninsula roaded

area, the Gulf of Alaska roaded area, or Southeast Alaska generally do not qualify for a spring or summer harvest. Communities located within one of these areas may petition the Co-management Council through their designated regional management body for designation as a spring and summer subsistence harvest area. The petition must state how the community meets the criteria identified in paragraph (c) of this section. The Co-management Council will consider each petition and will submit to the Service any recommendations to designate a community as a spring and summer subsistence harvest area. The Service will publish any approved new designations of communities as spring and summer subsistence harvest areas in subpart D of this part. All areas outside Alaska are ineligible.

(c) *Criteria for determining designation as a spring and summer subsistence harvest area.* A previously excluded community may be included in the spring/summer harvest regulations if recommended by the Alaska Migratory Bird Co-management Council. The Alaska Migratory Bird Co-management Council will recommend designation of subsistence harvest areas based on a deliberative process using the best available information on nutritional and cultural needs and customary and traditional use. The Alaska Migratory Bird Co-management Council recommendations will accommodate traditional spring and summer harvests without creating new traditions or increasing harvest of migratory birds. Recommendations will be made based on the majority of factors and the weight of the evidence using the following criteria:

- (1) A pattern of use recurring in the spring and summer of each year prior to 1999, excluding interruptions by circumstances beyond the user's control;
- (2) The consistent harvest and use of migratory birds on or near the user's permanent residence;
- (3) A use pattern that includes the handing down of knowledge of hunting skills and values from generation to generation;
- (4) A use pattern in which migratory birds are shared or distributed among others within a definable community of

persons; a community for purposes of subsistence uses may include specific villages or towns, with a historical pattern of subsistence use; and

(5) A use pattern that includes reliance for subsistence purposes upon migratory birds or their eggs and that meets nutritional and other essential needs including, but not limited to, cultural, social, and economic elements of the subsistence way of life.

(d) *Participation by permanent residents of excluded areas.* Immediate family members who are permanent residents of excluded areas may participate in the customary spring and summer subsistence harvest in a village's subsistence harvest area with the permission of the village council, where it is appropriate to assist indigenous inhabitants in meeting their nutritional and other essential needs or for the teaching of cultural knowledge to or by their immediate family members. Eligibility for participation will be developed and recommended by the Co-management Council and adopted or amended by regulations published in subpart D of this part.

[67 FR 53517, Aug. 16, 2002, as amended at 68 FR 43027, July 21, 2003; 69 FR 17327, Apr. 2, 2004]

#### §92.6 Use and possession of migratory birds.

You may not sell, offer for sale, purchase, or offer to purchase migratory birds, their parts, or their eggs taken under this part.

(a) *Eligible persons.* Under this part, you may take birds for human consumption only. Harvest and possession of migratory birds must be done using nonwasteful taking. Nonedible byproducts of migratory birds taken for food may be used for other purposes, except that taxidermy is not allowed.

(b) *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 permit issued under 50 CFR 21.27 for scientific research or education, and consistent with the terms and conditions of that permit.

[69 FR 17327, Apr. 2, 2004]

## §§ 92.7–92.9 [Reserved]

**Subpart B—Program Structure****§ 92.10 Alaska Migratory Bird Co-management Council.**

(a) *Establishment.* The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service hereby establishes, as authorized by the Protocol amending the Canada Treaty, a statewide management body to be known as the Alaska Migratory Bird Co-management Council.

(b) *Membership.* The Co-management Council must include Alaska Native, Federal, and State of Alaska representatives, as equals.

(1) The Federal and State governments will each seat one representative. The Federal representative will be appointed by the Alaska Regional Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the State representative will be appointed by the Commissioner of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. Regional partner organizations may seat 1 representative from each of the 12 regions identified in § 92.11(a).

(2) The Federal and State representatives and the collective Native representatives will each have one vote, for a total of three votes for the entire council.

(c) *Roles and responsibilities.* The Co-management Council is authorized to:

(1) Hold public meetings for the purpose of conducting business related to spring and summer subsistence harvest of migratory birds;

(2) Develop recommendations for regulations governing the spring and summer subsistence harvest of migratory birds and their eggs;

(3) Develop recommendations for, among other things, law enforcement policies, population and harvest monitoring, education programs, research and use of traditional knowledge, and habitat protection;

(4) Develop procedures and criteria by which areas and communities can be determined to be eligible or ineligible for a spring/summer subsistence harvest;

(5) Provide guidelines to the regional management bodies each year for formulation of annual regulations;

(6) Consolidate regional recommendations and resolve interregional dif-

ferences in order to prepare statewide recommendations;

(7) Establish committees to gather or review data, develop plans for Co-management Council actions, and coordinate programs with regional management bodies;

(8) Send regional representatives from the Co-management Council to meetings of the Pacific Flyway Council and to meetings of the other Flyway Councils as needed, and to meetings of the Service Regulations Committee;

(9) Elect officers; and

(10) Conduct other business as the Council may determine is necessary to accomplish its purpose.

(d) *Meetings.* Meetings of the Co-management Council will be open to the public. The Co-management Council will:

(1) Hold meetings at least twice annually;

(2) Conduct meetings in accordance with bylaws approved by the Co-management Council;

(3) Provide an opportunity at each meeting for public comment;

(4) Establish the dates, times, and locations of meetings; and

(5) Maintain a written record of all meetings.

(e) *Staff support.* Administrative support for the Co-management Council will be provided by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and will include, but not be limited to:

(1) Making arrangements for the meeting rooms and associated logistics related to Co-management Council meetings;

(2) Preparing public notices announcing Co-management Council meetings;

(3) Maintaining records of discussions and actions taken by the Co-management Council;

(4) Coordinating with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to provide technical information needed by the Co-management Council for its deliberations;

(5) Preparing documents and gathering information needed by the Co-management Council for its meetings; and

(6) Preparing the annual subpart D regulations package recommended by

## § 92.11

## 50 CFR Ch. I (10–1–04 Edition)

the Co-management Council for submission to the flyway councils and the Service Regulations Committee.

[67 FR 53517, Aug. 16, 2002, as amended at 68 FR 43027, July 21, 2003]

### § 92.11 Regional management areas.

(a) *Regions identified.* To allow for maximum participation by residents of subsistence eligible areas, the Alaska Regional Director of the Service established 12 geographic regions based on common subsistence resource use patterns and the 12 Alaska Native regional corporation boundaries established under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act. Despite using the Alaska Native regional corporation boundaries, we are not working directly with the regional corporations in this program and are instead working with the Alaska Native nonprofit groups and local governments in those corresponding regions. You may obtain records and maps delineating the boundaries of the 12 regions from the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, Alaska State Office, 222 West 7th Ave., No. 13, Anchorage, AK 99513. The regions are identified as follows:

- (1) Aleutian/Pribilof Islands;
- (2) Kodiak Archipelago;
- (3) Bristol Bay;
- (4) Yukon/Kuskokwim Delta;
- (5) Bering Strait/Norton Sound;
- (6) Northwest Arctic;
- (7) North Slope;
- (8) Interior;
- (9) Southeast;
- (10) Gulf of Alaska;
- (11) Upper Copper River; and
- (12) Cook Inlet.

(b) *Regional partnerships.* The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will establish partner agreements with at least 1 partner organization in each of the 12 regions. The partner organization identified must be willing and able to coordinate the regional program on behalf of all subsistence hunters within that region. A regional partner will:

(1) Organize or identify one or more management bodies within the region in which it is located.

(2) Determine how the management body for the region should be organized, the manner in which it should function, its size, who serves on it, the

length of terms, methods of involving subsistence users, and other related matters.

(3) Coordinate regional meetings and the solicitation of proposals.

(4) Ensure appointment of a person to represent the region by serving on the Co-management Council. If a region consists of more than one partner organization, each partner organization may appoint a member to sit on the Co-management Council.

(5) Keep the residents of villages within the region informed of issues related to the subsistence harvest of migratory birds.

(6) Work cooperatively with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to gather harvest data, numbers of subsistence users, and other management data and traditional knowledge for the benefit of the management bodies.

(c) *Regional management bodies.* (1) Regional management bodies must provide a forum for the collection and expression of opinions and recommendations regarding spring and summer subsistence harvesting of migratory birds. They must develop requests and recommendations from the region to be presented to the Co-management Council for deliberation. They must provide for public participation in the meetings at which recommendations and requests are formulated.

(2) Requests and recommendations to the Co-management Council may involve seasons and bag limits, methods and means, law enforcement policies, population and harvest monitoring, education programs, research and use of traditional knowledge, habitat protection, and other concerns related to migratory bird subsistence programs.

(3) Regional management bodies may be established specifically for the purpose of carrying out the responsibilities identified in this part, or they may be existing entities that can add these responsibilities to their existing duties.

[67 FR 53517, Aug. 16, 2002, as amended at 68 FR 43027, July 21, 2003]

**§ 92.12 Relationship to the process for developing national hunting regulations for migratory game birds.**

(a) *Flyway councils.* (1) Proposed annual regulations recommended by the Co-management Council will be submitted to all flyway councils for review and comment. The Council's recommendations must be submitted prior to the SRC's last regular meeting of the calendar year in order to be approved for spring/summer harvest beginning March 11 of the following calendar year.

(2) Alaska Native representatives may be appointed by the Co-management Council to attend meetings of one or more of the four flyway councils to discuss recommended regulations or other proposed management actions.

(b) *Service regulations committee.* Proposed annual regulations recommended by the Co-management Council will be submitted to the Service Regulations Committee for their review and recommendation to the Service Director. Following the Service Director's review and recommendation, the proposals will be forwarded to the Department of Interior for approval. Proposed annual regulations will then be published in the FEDERAL REGISTER for public review and comment, similar to the annual migratory game bird hunting regulations (found in part 20 of this chapter). Final spring/summer regulations for Alaska will be published in the FEDERAL REGISTER in the preceding Fall.

§§ 92.13–92.19 [Reserved]

**Subpart C—General Regulations Governing Subsistence Harvest**

**§ 92.20 Methods and means.**

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

(a) Swivel guns, shotguns larger than 10 gauge, punt guns, battery guns, machine guns, fish hooks, poisons, drugs, explosives, or stupefying substances;

(b) Shooting from a sinkbox or any other type of low-floating device that affords the hunter a means of concealment beneath the surface of the water;

(c) Hunting from any type of aircraft;

(d) Taking waterfowl and other species using live birds as decoys, except for auklets on Diomedes Island (Use of live birds as decoys is a customary and traditional means of harvesting auklets on Diomedes Island.);

(e) Hunting with the aid of recorded bird calls;

(f) Using any type of vehicle, aircraft, or boat for the purpose of concentrating, driving, rallying, or stirring up of any migratory bird, except boats may be used to position a hunter;

(g) The possession or use of lead or other toxic shot while hunting all migratory birds (Approved nontoxic shot types are listed in § 20.21(j) of subchapter B.);

(h) Shooting while on or across any road or highway; or

(i) Using an air boat (Interior and Bristol Bay Regions only) or jet ski (Interior Region only) for hunting or transporting hunters.

[68 FR 43028, July 21, 2003, as amended at 69 FR 17327, Apr. 2, 2004]

**§ 92.21 Emergency closures.**

(a) The Regional Director, after consultation with the Co-management Council, may close or temporarily suspend any regulation established under subparts C or D of this part:

(1) Upon finding that a continuation of the regulation would pose an imminent threat to the conservation of any endangered or threatened species or other migratory bird population; and

(2) Upon issuance of local public notice by such means as publication in local newspapers of general circulation, posting of the areas affected, notifying the State wildlife conservation agency, and announcement on the internet and local radio and television.

(b) The Service will also announce any such closure or temporary suspension by publication of a notice in the FEDERAL REGISTER simultaneously with the local public notice referred to in paragraph (a)(2) of this section. However, in the event that publishing a FEDERAL REGISTER notice simultaneously with the local public notice is impractical, we will publish in the FEDERAL REGISTER as soon as possible after the steps outlined in paragraph (a) of this section are taken.

(c) Any closure or temporary suspension under this section will be effective on the date of publication of the FEDERAL REGISTER notice; or if such notice is not published simultaneously with the notification methods described in paragraph (a) of this section, then on the date and at the time specified in the local notification to the public given under paragraph (a)(2) of this section. Every notice of closure or temporary suspension will include the date and time of the closing, the area or areas affected, and the species affected. In the case of a temporary suspension, the date and time when the harvest may be resumed will also be provided by local notification to the public and by publication in the FEDERAL REGISTER as provided for in paragraphs (a) and (b) of this section.

[68 FR 43028, July 21, 2003]

§§ 92.22–92.29 [Reserved]

**Subpart D—Annual Regulations Governing Subsistence Harvest**

**§ 92.30 General overview of regulations.**

These regulations establish a spring/summer migratory bird subsistence harvest in Alaska. The regulations list migratory bird species that are authorized for harvest, species that are not authorized for harvest, season dates, and dates for a 30-day closure to protect nesting birds. The Co-management Council will review and, if necessary, recommend modifications to these harvest regulations on an annual basis, working within the schedule of the Federal late-season regulations for migratory game bird hunting.

(a) The taking, possession, transportation, and other uses of migratory

birds are generally prohibited unless specifically authorized by regulation developed in accordance with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. Therefore, harvesting migratory birds is prohibited unless regulations are established ensuring the protection of the various populations of migratory birds. Migratory bird population levels, production, and habitat conditions vary annually. These conditions differ within Alaska and throughout North America. Therefore, the regulations governing migratory bird hunting may include annual adjustments to keep harvests within acceptable levels.

(b) The development of the regulations in this part, like the development of the annual migratory game bird hunting regulations in part 20 of this chapter, involves annual data gathering programs to determine migratory bird population status and trends, evaluate habitat conditions, determine harvests, and consider other factors having an impact on the anticipated size of annual populations.

(c) The Service proposes annual migratory game bird hunting regulations in the FEDERAL REGISTER in the spring for seasons beginning September 1 of that year. Following consideration of additional biological information and public comment, the Service publishes supplemental proposals throughout the summer. These are also open to public comment.

(d) Sections 92.31 through 92.39 provide for the annual harvest of migratory birds and their eggs during spring and summer for subsistence users in Alaska.

[67 FR 53517, Aug. 16, 2002, as amended at 68 FR 43028, July 21, 2003]

§§ 92.31–92.39 [Reserved]