

Guide for Proposing Regulations for the Subsistence Harvest of Migratory Birds or Their Eggs during the Spring/Summer Season

Background In 1997 the United States Senate ratified Protocols that amended the Migratory Bird Treaty with Canada. This action authorized the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) to open spring and summer subsistence harvesting of migratory birds and their eggs in Alaska. The Protocol acknowledged “the intent of the United States to provide for the customary and traditional taking of certain species of migratory birds and their eggs for subsistence use by indigenous inhabitants of Alaska;” and stipulated “that it is not the intent of this Protocol to cause significant increases in the take of species of migratory birds relative to their continental population sizes.”

The Protocol mandates that “Indigenous inhabitants of the State of Alaska shall be afforded an effective and meaningful role in the conservation of migratory birds including the development of regulations affecting the non-wasteful taking of migratory birds and the collection of their eggs, by participating on relevant management bodies.” As a result the Alaska Migratory Bird Co-Management Council (AMBCC), composed of State, Federal, and Alaska Native regional representatives was formed. A major function of the Council is to develop recommendations for harvest regulations which are submitted to the Service’s Regulation Committee in Washington D.C. The Council develops its recommendations largely from input obtained at the local level.

Alaska citizens and subsistence users are an integral part of the Federal regulatory process. Any person or group can submit proposals to change or improve Federal subsistence regulations, comment on proposals, and testify at meetings.

Categories: In general, proposals should fall into one of the following categories:

- Regional season dates including closure periods
- Bird species open or closed to harvest
- Methods and means of harvest

Directions for Proposal Submittal Proposals for regulations need to be submitted using the proposal form. Proposals in general, will be one or two pages in length. Writers are urged to provide as much detail as necessary to justify their recommendations and are encouraged to seek assistance from their regional council representative or a staff member in the statewide council office in Anchorage. Completed proposals should be submitted initially to your regional migratory bird council. All individuals also have the option of submitting proposals directly to the statewide council office. Proposals are accepted from November 1 through December 15 of each year and may be sent to:

Office of the Alaska Migratory Bird Co-Mgt Council

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 1011 E. Tudor Rd., MS201, Anchorage, AK 99507
Toll-free Tel: 877/229-2344; Fax: 907/786-3641; Email: ambcc@fws.gov

After December 15th, contact the AMBCC Office for instructions as to how to submit a late proposal. Special conditions may apply.