

Federal Duck Stamp Exemption for Subsistence Hunters
Implementation Policy FAQs

1. What is a Federal Duck Stamp?

Federal Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamps, commonly known as “Duck Stamps,” are pictorial stamps produced by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which are required for hunters 16 years and older to hunt migratory waterfowl. Funds raised by the sale of the Duck Stamp are used to protect wetland habitat in the National Wildlife Refuge System. Habitat protected through purchase or easements with these funds provide vital feeding and resting habitat across the country. Ninety-eight cents of every dollar generated by the sale of duck stamps is used directly for the protection of that important habitat.

2. What action has been taken and why?

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has implemented an interim policy on a law that recently was passed by Congress and enacted. This law provides an exemption for Alaska subsistence hunters from the requirement to carry a Federal Duck Stamp while hunting migratory waterfowl in the state of Alaska.

3. Who is exempted from the requirement to purchase a Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp?

To qualify for this exemption, you must be a *permanent rural Alaska resident* (defined in 50 CFR Parts 92.4 and 100.23) or an *eligible person* (defined in 92.4) living in an *included area* (defined in 92.5(a)). Times when you may hunt without a Federal Duck Stamp vary depending on how you qualify for this exemption.

4. When can an eligible person hunt migratory waterfowl without a Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp?

- If you qualify for this exemption, you may hunt migratory waterfowl without a Federal Duck Stamp during any waterfowl season in Alaska for which you are qualified to hunt.
- If you are a *permanent rural Alaska resident* but not an *eligible person* living in an *included area*, you may hunt migratory waterfowl without a Federal Duck Stamp in Alaska only during the fall sport season.
- If you are an *eligible person* living in an *included area*, you may hunt waterfowl without a Federal Duck Stamp in Alaska during both the spring/summer subsistence season and the fall sport season.

5. Where can a qualified person hunt without a Federal Duck Stamp?

If you qualify for this exemption, you may hunt migratory waterfowl without a Federal Duck Stamp anywhere in Alaska in accordance with state law including relevant safety statutes. You must have a Federal Duck Stamp to hunt migratory waterfowl anywhere else in the United States.

6. If a person is eligible for this exemption, does that person have to purchase and carry state-required licenses or stamps while hunting?

Hunters must comply with all applicable laws. The exemption from carrying the Federal Duck Stamp while hunting does not relieve qualified hunters from the requirement to purchase and possess state hunting licenses and stamps.

7. When will this policy take effect?

This interim policy is effective immediately and will remain in effect until June 1, 2017 , unless it is amended or superseded by the Regional Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

8. What will the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service do to implement this exemption long-term?

The Service will be consult with Alaska Native Tribes and the State of Alaska to develop regulation to implement the exemption on a more long-term basis. Once implementing regulations have been developed, a proposed rule will be published for public review and comment.