Customary and Traditional Use Worksheet and Options for Amounts Reasonably Necessary for Subsistence Uses of Grouses in Game Management Unit 18

Prepared by

Hiroko Ikuta and Jeff Park

for the January 2014 Kotzebue Board of Game meeting

December 2013

Alaska Department of Fish and Game



Division of Subsistence

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Weights and measures (metric)	
centimeter	cm
deciliter	dL
gram	g
hectare	ha
kilogram	kg
kilometer	km
liter	L
meter	m
milliliter	mL
millimeter	mm

Weights and measures (English)

weights and measures (English)	
cubic feet per second	ft ³ /s
foot	ft
gallon	gal
inch	in
mile	mi
nautical mile	nmi
ounce	OZ
pound	lb
quart	qt
yard	yd
Time and temperature	

day	d
degrees Celsius	°C
degrees Fahrenheit	°F
degrees kelvin	K
hour	h
minute	min
second	S

Physics and chemistry

all atomic symbols	
alternating current	AC
ampere	А
calorie	cal
direct current	DC
hertz	Hz
horsepower	hp
hydrogen ion activity (negative	log of) pH
parts per million	ppm
parts per thousand	ppt, ‰
volts	V
watts	W

General	
all commonly-accepted a	bbreviations
e.g., Mr., Mrs., AM, PM, et	
all commonly-accepted p	rofessional
titles e.g., Dr., Ph.D., R.	
Alaska Administrative Code	AAC
at	@
compass directions:	
east	Е
north	Ν
south	S
west	W
copyright	©
corporate suffixes:	
Company	Co.
Corporation	Corp.
Incorporated	Inc.
Limited	Ltd.
District of Columbia	D.C.
et alii (and others)	et al.
et cetera (and so forth)	etc.
exempli gratia (for example)	e.g.
Federal Information Code	FIC
id est (that is)	i.e.
latitude or longitude	lat. or long.
monetary symbols (U.S.)	\$,¢
months (tables and figures):	first three
letters	(Jan,,Dec)
registered trademark	®
trademark	ТМ
United States (adjective)	U.S.
United States of America (not	un) USA
	States Code
U.S. state use two-letter a	bbreviations
(e. <u>;</u>	g., AK, WA)

Measures (fisheries)

(instruction)	
fork length	FL
mideye-to-fork	MEF
mideye-to-tail-fork	METF
standard length	SL
total length	TL
total length	IL
Mathematics, statistics	
all standard mathematical signs	ampole
and abbreviations	s, symbols
alternate hypothesis	H _A
base of natural logarithm	
•	e
catch per unit effort	CPUE
coefficient of variation	CV
	t, χ^2 , etc.)
confidence interval	CI
correlation coefficient (multiple) R
correlation coefficient (simple)	r
covariance	cov
degree (angular)	0
degrees of freedom	df
expected value	Е
greater than	>
greater than or equal to	\geq
harvest per unit effort	HPUE
less than	<
less than or equal to	\leq
logarithm (natural)	ln
logarithm (base 10)	log
logarithm (specify base)	log _{2,} etc.
minute (angular)	'
not significant	NS
null hypothesis	Ho
percent	%
probability	Р
probability of a type I error (reje	ection of the
null hypothesis when true)	α
probability of a type II error (ac	ceptance of
the null hypothesis when fa	
second (angular)	"
standard deviation	SD
standard error	SE
variance	
population	Var
sample	var
-	

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> > December 2013

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ABSTRACT

This report provides a description of the customary and traditional uses of grouses in Game Management Unit (GMU) 18. It also provides options for amounts reasonably necessary for subsistence (ANS) for consideration by the Alaska Board of Game (BOG) should it make a positive customary and traditional use finding for grouses.

Key words: Subsistence, amount necessary for subsistence, customary and traditional uses, Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta, grouse, Board of Game.

INTRODUCTION

This report has been prepared for the Alaska Board of Game (BOG) for reference when considering Proposal 12, which has implications for subsistence hunting for grouses in Game Management Unit (GMU) 18, during its January 2014 meeting (Figure 1). Under AS 16.05.258(a), the BOG is charged with identifying game populations, or portions of populations, that "are customarily taken or used for subsistence" (a "C&T finding"). If a portion of these populations can be harvested consistent with sustained yield principles, the BOG "shall determine the amount of the harvestable portion that is reasonably necessary for subsistence uses" (AS 16.05.258(b)). This is called the amount reasonably necessary for subsistence, or an "ANS finding." The proposal provides an opportunity for the BOG and public to determine C&T and ANS findings for grouses in GMU 18.

THE EIGHT CRITERIA

CRITERION 1: LENGTH AND CONSISTENCY OF USE

A long-term consistent pattern of noncommercial taking, use, and reliance on the fish stock or game population that has been established over a reasonable period of time of not less than one generation, excluding interruption by circumstances beyond the user's control, such as unavailability of the fish or game caused by migratory patterns.

Grouses have a long history in the diets of Western Alaska residents. According to Division of Subsistence comprehensive surveys, ruffed grouse *Bonasa umbellus*, sharp-tailed grouse *Tympanuchus phasianellus*, and spruce grouse *Falcipennis canadensis* have been harvested for many generations (Brown et al. 2012; Brown et al. 2013; Brown et al. In prep¹; Fall et al. 2012; Ikuta, Brown, and Koster In prep²; Ikuta, Runfola, Koster In prep³).

In the Central Yup'ik language, ruffed grouse are called *egelruciayuli or elciayuli*, while spruce grouse are *egtuk*. Grouses are easier birds to catch than waterfowl. Today, they remain an important food source in spring and fall. Information about subsistence harvests and uses of grouses in GMU 18 from 1998–2012 is presented in Table 1. In addition, a regulatory history and present hunting regulations for grouses in GMU 18 are presented in Appendix A.

Brown, Caroline L., David S. Koster, Alida Trainor, Lisa J. Slayton, Brittany Retherford, Elizabeth Mikow, Hiroko Ikuta, Andrew R. Brenner, and James S. Magdanz. In prep. "Subsistence Harvests in 5 Yukon River Communities, 2010: An Index Approach". Fairbanks: Alaska Department of Fish and Game Division of Subsistence, Technical Paper No. NNN. Hereinafter cited as "Brown et al. In prep."

^{2.} Ikuta, Hiroko, Caroline L. Brown, and David S. Koster. In prep. "Subsistence Harvests in 8 Communities in the Kuskokwim and Yukon River Drainages, 2011". Fairbanks: Alaska Department of Fish and Game Division of Subsistence, Technical Paper No. NNN. Hereinafter cited as "Ikuta, Brown, and Koster In prep."

^{3.} Ikuta, Hiroko, David M. Runfola, and David S. Koster. In prep. "Bethel Subsistence, 2012: Wild Resource Harvests and Uses, Land Use Patterns, and Subsistence Economy in the Hub Community of the Yukon–Kuskokwim Delta". Fairbanks: Alaska Department of Fish and Game Division of Subsistence, Technical Paper No. NNN. Hereinafter cited as "Ikuta, Runfola, and Koster In prep."

CRITERION 2: SEASONALITY

A pattern of taking or use recurring in specific seasons of each year.

Grouses are available year-round, yet people harvest them primarily in spring and fall. A man who has been living in Bethel since 1996 said, "We'll shoot a lot of spruce grouse. We'll shoot them during moose hunting season" (Key respondent, personal communication with Jeff Park, ADF&G Subsistence Resource Specialist, April 8, 2013).

CRITERION 3: MEANS AND METHODS OF HARVEST

A pattern of taking or use consisting of methods and means of harvest that are characterized by efficiency and economy of effort and cost.

Historically, people in Western Alaska harvested grouses by using snares, nets, and decoys. Today, instead of using snares and nets, many hunters harvest grouses with shotguns and .22 caliber rifles.

CRITERION 4: GEOGRAPHIC AREAS

The area in which the noncommercial, long-term, and consistent pattern of taking, use, and reliance upon the fish stock and game population has been established.

Areas closest to communities are most heavily used, but grouses are harvested opportunistically by hunters or trappers traveling throughout community harvest areas in upland areas.

Ruffed grouse occur naturally throughout most of Interior Alaska in aspen forests in the Yukon, Tanana, and Kuskokwim river valleys. They are most abundant where dense stands of young aspen or birch have become established after a fire or timber harvest. Sharp-tailed grouse can often be found perched high in a spruce tree, or emerging from dense brush along a back road. Spruce grouse inhabit white spruce and paper birch woodlands, and black spruce bogs,⁴

CRITERION 5: MEANS OF HANDLING, PREPARING, PRESERVING, AND STORING

A means of handling, preparing, preserving, and storing fish or game that has been traditionally used by past generations, but not excluding recent technological advances where appropriate.

Grouses and their eggs are primarily used as food for human consumption. Now as in the past, most grouses are eaten fresh or frozen for later use. Freezing has been a common preservation technique. Occasionally, a grouse is dried whole. Often grouses are boiled or roasted without being eviscerated. Currently, some people store frozen grouses in electric freezers, but it is not uncommon to store grouses in storm sheds for a few days or weeks at a time prior to consumption.

CRITERION 6: INTERGENERATIONAL TRANSMISSION OF KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, VALUES, AND LORE

A pattern of taking or use that includes the handing down of knowledge of fishing or hunting skills, values, and lore from generation to generation.

Traditionally, young boys in Western Alaska learned how to hunt by living with other men of the community in the ceremonial men's house (*qargiq*). Today, the institution of qargiq is no longer part of Central Yup'ik daily life. Yet, hunting knowledge is still passed on from grandfather, father, or uncle to

^{4.} Alaska Department of Fish and Game. 2013. Small Game Hunting in Alaska: Small Game Species. http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=smallgamehunting.species (Accessed November 25, 2013).

children. A middle-aged man in Bethel said, "They've [children] all shot spruce grouse. Even my 7-yearold [daughter], she'll take a .22 and go knock one down ... Making sure you'll get some food when you get older" (Key respondent, personal communication with Jeff Park, ADF&G Subsistence Resource Specialist, April 8, 2013).

Yup'ik children are expected to learn by observing experienced hunters—such as fathers, uncles, and grandfathers—who know the hunting equipment and techniques, animal behaviors, anatomy, geography, and weather, and then by participating in the actual tasks with them.

CRITERION 7: DISTRIBUTION AND EXCHANGE

A pattern of taking, use, and reliance where the harvest effort or products of that harvest are distributed or shared, including customary trade, barter, and gift-giving.

In every community in Western Alaska where Division of Subsistence has conducted studies, researchers have found extensive sharing and distribution of wild resources (Brown et al. 2012; Brown et al. 2013; Brown et al. 1n prep; Fall et al. 2012; Ikuta, Brown, and Koster In prep; Ikuta, Runfola, and Koster In prep). Sharing typically involves almost every household in the study samples. Certain resources, such as seal oil, are more commonly shared than others, which is as true in the present as it was in the past. Certain communities are recognized as particularly good sources for certain resources; for example, Lower Yukon River villages are recognized for their higher moose harvests in more recent times.

Some sharing occurs ceremonially: in feasts at Thanksgiving, Christmas, Easter, funerals, or on the occasion of a child's first kill. Table 1 lists the percentage of households in selected GMU 18 communities using, harvesting, giving, and receiving grouses, and serves to document the extent of sharing of this particular resource from 1998–2012. Every community that reported harvesting grouses also reported giving and receiving this resource. In most communities, households use wild foods harvested by others through sharing networks, so the percentages of households harvesting usually are lower than the percentage of households using wild foods.

In addition, the extra subsistence foods local people produce are usually shared with elderly residents, single mothers with young, dependent children, and young single persons or couples who are just getting started. Sharing subsistence-caught wildlife is a fundamental characteristic of communities that follow a subsistence way of life in the region resources (Brown et al. 2012; Brown et al. 2013; Brown et al. In prep; Fall et al. 2012; Ikuta, Brown, and Koster In prep; Ikuta, Runfola, and Koster In prep).

CRITERION 8: DIVERSITY OF RESOURCES IN AN AREA; ECONOMIC, CULTURAL, SOCIAL, AND NUTRITIONAL ELEMENTS

A pattern that includes taking, use, and reliance for subsistence purposes upon a wide variety of fish and game resources and that provides substantial economic, cultural, social, and nutritional elements of the subsistence way of life.

A number of recent studies have demonstrated that Western Alaskan communities take, use, and rely upon a wide diversity of fish and game resources resources (Brown et al. 2012; Brown et al. 2013; Brown et al. 2012; Ikuta, Brown, and Koster In prep; Ikuta, Runfola, and Koster In prep). Documented harvests ranged from 434 lb per capita in Lower Kuskokwim communities to 269 lb per capita in Central Kuskokwim communities in 2009–2013. The typical community harvests approximately 50 different species of plants, fish, and wildlife each year. The mix of species depends upon species availability. For some coastal communities, as much as 80% of the total harvest by weight may come from marine mammals. For other communities, terrestrial mammals, fish, and marine mammals compose approximately equal portions of the total community harvests.

Many people in these communities cannot afford to buy meat or fish, and wild foods are essential to the quality of their diet. The people of GMU 18 use and rely upon virtually all the edible wild game species

available in their region. These households use cash income to purchase fuel oil, electricity, and family goods, including clothing and shelter. They also use cash to purchase equipment used in subsistence activities. However, the amount of cash available in most Western communities is relatively small compared to urban parts of Alaska. According to the U.S. Census Bureau⁵, the median household income is \$52,063 in the Bethel census area and \$39,583 in the Wade Hampton census area, while the median in the state of Alaska is \$69,014. At the same time, imported food costs are very high.

The harvesting of wild foods continues a long cultural tradition for many people—a tradition which continues to evolve in many ways as social, economic, and environmental conditions change.

ANS OPTIONS

Followings are 4 options for the BOG to consider in making an ANS finding during its January 2014 meeting. The options presented below were developed using harvest data from the survey program of the Alaska Migratory Bird Co-Management Council (AMBCC) (Naves 2010a; Naves 2010b; Naves 2011; Naves 2012). While the data from comprehensive surveys present harvest estimates at the community level (Table 1), the AMBCC program reports harvest estimates at the subregional and regional levels (Table 2).

The AMBCC program is an annual survey program that develops area estimates based on a sample of communities. In the AMBCC program, villages and regions are surveyed on a rotating schedule, which is adjusted yearly according to monitoring priorities and funding availability. Communities in GMU 18 were surveyed in 2004–2007 and 2009–2011.

OPTION A: 100–5,100 grouses (all species combined, rounded)

Option A is based on the low and high range (84–5,094 birds) of the annual estimated harvests in GMU 18, 2004–2007 and 2009–2011.

OPTION B: 100–2,900 grouses (all species combined, rounded)

Option B is plus and minus (\pm) one standard deviation around the average annual estimated harvests in GMU 18, 2004–2007 and 2009–2011 (84–2,856 birds). Standard deviation is a measure of variability in the data. Based upon the estimates, repeated sampling should give a result between -1 and +1 standard deviation from the mean 68% of the time. Because the (–) standard deviation would be less than zero, the lower bound is equal to the lowest harvest year instead.

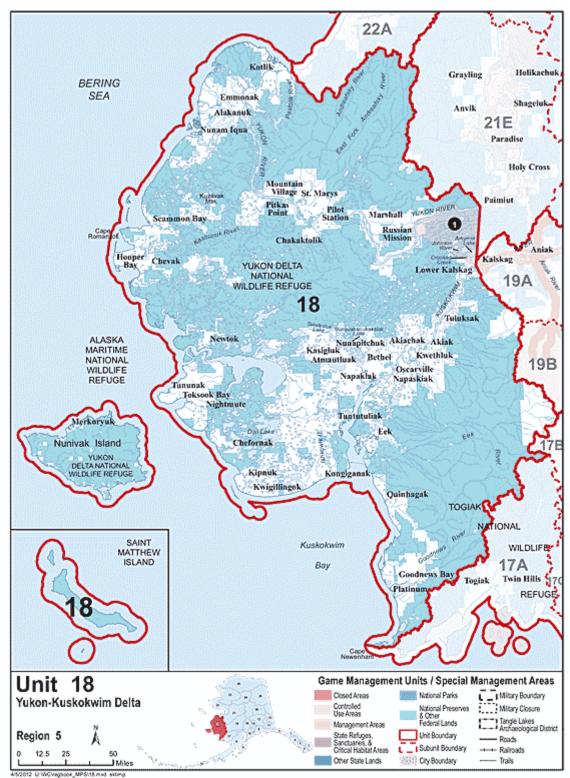
OPTION C: 100–3,900 grouses (all species combined, rounded)

Option C is based on the high 95% confidence interval value (CI) for the lowest estimated harvest year, to the low 95% CI value for the highest estimated harvest year, GMU 18, 2004–2007 and 2009–2011 (127–3,888 birds).

OPTION D: 50–6,300 grouses (all species combined, rounded)

Option D is based on the low 95% CI value for the lowest estimated harvest year, to the high 95% CI value for the highest estimated harvest year in GMU 18, 2004–2007 and 2009–2011 (42–6,300 birds).

^{5.} State & County QuickFacts, U.S. Department of Commerce, U.S. Census Bureau. http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/02000.html (Accessed November 25, 2013).



			Percenta	age of house	holds		Esti			
							Per	Per		
			Attempting				household	capita	Community	95% CI
Community	Study year	Use	harvest	Harvesting	Receiving	Giving	(lb)	(lb)	(individual)	(\pm)
Akiachak	1998	30%	30%	30%	5%	11%	1	0.0	146	31%
Akiak	2010	22%	21%	21%	2%	10%	0.7	0.2	94.7	37%
Bethel	2012	4%	3%	3%	1%	1%	0.5	0.1	745	85%
Emmonak	2008	2%	2%	2%	1%	1%	0.2	0.0	36	78%
Kwethluk	1986	unknown	14%	14%	3%	3%	1	0.0	144	unknown
Kwethluk	2010	4%	2%	2%	2%	2%	0	0.0	33.4	126%
Lower Kalskag	2009	44%	41%	38%	10%	14%	2.7	0.7	293	9.9%
Marshall	2009	13%	9%	9%	7%	4%	0.2	0.0	24	71%
Mountain Village	2009	5%	4%	4%	3%	2%	0	0.0	25	62%
Napakiak	2011	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0	0.0	0	0%
Napaskiak	2011	4%	4%	4%	0%	0%	0	0.0	3	91%
Oscarville	2010	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0	0.0	0	0%
Russian Mission	2011	52%	52%	52%	9%	11%	8.2	1.6	653	32%
Tuluksak	2010	31%	29%	28%	7%	12%	1.4	0.3	170.7	21%
Upper Kalskag	2009	60%	50%	48%	17%	23%	3.8	1.1	325	8.9%

Table 1.-Subsistence harvests and uses of grouses in 13 communities in GMU 18, 1998–2012.

Sources Brown et al. 2012; Brown et al. 2013; Coffing 1991; Coffing et al. 2001; Fall et al. 2012; Ikuta, Brown, and Koster In prep; Ikuta, Runfola, and Koster In prep.

Table 2.–Subsistence harvests in GMU 18 communities, by subregion, 2004–2011.

		CI		CI		CI		CI	CI		CI		CI		CI
Subregion	2004	(±)	2005	(±)	2006	(±)	2007	(±)	2008 (±) 20	009	(±)	2010	(±)	2011	(±)
Mid coast	0		0		0		0			0		0		0	
North coast	0		0		0		0			0		0		0	
Lower Yukon	65	22-108	16	2-30	307	158–456				30	18–43	164	164–164	2,265	1,551–2,979
Lower Kuskokwim	112	29-1,095	200	142-257	624	493–754	116	3–229		54	24-84	391	261-520	2,829	2,337–3,321
Bethel	0		163	0–358	4	1–7	0			0		0		0	
Total	177	51-1,203	379	144-645	935	652–1,217	116	3–229		84	42–127	555	425-684	5,094	3,888-6,300

Sources (Naves 2010a; Naves 2010b; Naves 2011; Naves 2012)

Note The Central Kuskokwin subregion falls outside GMU 18 and was therefore omitted from these calculations.

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Appendix A: Grouse Regulatory History, 1925–2013 in GMU 18

Regulatory year	Season	Total days	Bag limits, areas, and conditions
1925–1932	Sept. 1 – Feb. 28	181	In any one day during the open season 15 grouse in the aggregate of all kinds; but not to exceed 25 in the aggregate of all kinds of grouse and ptarmigan.
1933–1939	Sept. 1 – Feb. 28	181	15 grouse, 25 ptarmigan, a day but not more than 25 in aggregate a day.
1940	Aug. 20 – Jan. 31	165	Grouse 10; ptarmigan 15, but not to exceed 15 in the aggregate of all kind of grouse and ptarmigan a day.
1941–1942	Aug. 20 – Jan.31	165	Grouse 10; ptarmigan 10, but not to exceed 10 in the aggregate of all kind of grouse and ptarmigan a day.
1943	Sept. 1 – Jan. 31	153	Grouse 10; ptarmigan 10, but not to exceed 10 in the aggregate of all kind of grouse and ptarmigan a day.
1944	Fur District 5 Sept. 15 – Feb. 28	167	Grouse 10; ptarmigan 10, but not to exceed 10 in the aggregate of all kind of grouse and ptarmigan a day.
1945–1946	Fur District 5 Sept. 1 – Feb. 28	181	Grouse 10; ptarmigan 10, but not to exceed 10 in the aggregate of all kind of grouse and ptarmigan a day.
1947–1948	Fur District 5 Aug. 20 – Feb. 28	193	Grouse 10; ptarmigan 10, but not to exceed 10 in the aggregate of all kind of grouse and ptarmigan a day.
1949–1951	In the Territory Sept. 1 – Feb. 28	181	10 singly or in the aggregate of all kinds of grouse or ptarmigan in a day.
1952	In the Territory Aug. 20 – Feb. 28	193	10 singly or in the aggregate of all kinds of grouse or ptarmigan in a day.
1953	In the Territory Aug. 20 – April 15	239	10 singly or in the aggregate of all kinds of grouse or ptarmigan in a day.
1954	North of the Alaska Range Aug. 20 – April 15	239	15 a day in the aggregate of all kinds of grouse and ptarmigan, of which not more than 10 shall be grouse.
1955	North of the Alaska Range Aug. 20 – April 15	239	10 grouse a day.
1956–1959	GMU 18 Aug. 20 – April 15	239	10 grouse a day.
1960–1961	GMU 18 Aug. 20 – March 15	208	15 grouse a day.
1962–1964	GMU 18 Aug. 10 – March 15	218	15 grouse a day.
1965–1967	GMU 18 Aug. 20 – March 15	208	15 grouse a day. 30 in possession.
1968–2013	GMU 18 Aug. 10 – April 30	218	15 grouse a day. 30 in possession.