

Nancy Hillstrand
Pioneer Alaskan Fisheries 50 year Alaskan Corporation
Seaducks Unlimited
Box 7
Homer Alaska 99603

RC39

Greetings

My intent is to communicate awareness of the importance of migratory **birds and the Migratory Bird Treaty by five separate countries. The need for additional harvest information and to curtail the waste is of the utmost importance as the Strategic Plan of the Sea Duck Joint Venture**

I am hoping you will look closely at these definitions, to use this opportunity to clarify, or amend and modify them.

Definitions can be the nuts and bolts in your management tool box.

They can refine adaptive management and clarify future regulations

151 Assistance to gather data

- Just getting species would help
- The Strategic Plan of the Sea Duck Joint Venture states . (RC37), "The current survey design is unable to accurately estimate sea duck harvest." Data is sorely needed for a suite of birds called Mergini, the sea ducks.
- Most species of Mergini show trends below long term averages for over two decades now. dabblers on the other hand are well above long term averages.
- Sea Ducks do not have the life strategy of dabblers So sea ducks cannot compensate as rapidly from mortality factors and need monitoring.

The Migratory Bird Treaty provides a unique co-Management of migratory birds that can travel thousands of miles. Grave uncertainty of abundance, distribution, times and lines of Migration can use any and all assistance by those who use them. Most waterfowlers understand this responsibility to assist when needed.

RC 37 shows what and how Washington state has taken the step to begin this data collection of those who hunt in that state. It is important that we can start moving in this direction using the internet to transmit information to aid in management.

152, edible meat; 153, hindquarter; 154, trophy

All Proposals ask **"Will the quality of the resource harvested or the products produced be improved"**

As a Seafood Processor I see an enormous amount of waste or poorly cared for meat coming through our doors.

Most of this wasted meat is coming from lack of awareness, outdated behavior, or simply lack of direction. I feel the dept and this board have the opportunity to raise the bar on this issue from whatever angle possible. Definitions is one important angle to advance quality meat.

- If Backstrap only taken on a small deer we are appalled. Why are we not appalled by this same waste of our waterfowl. This is the same.
- Kodiak I have helped pluck and cook various sea duck species with Native harvesters. These people even eat the feet meat. The thighs and upper wing provides edible food.
- Wasted meat is unacceptable.
- Clarification as a companion to 152
- Refine for adaptive management
- Trophy birds need to be managed differently then birds for food
- 36 harlequin on the Jackolof dock as the 4 hunters chose their one trophy to mount
- An avid migratory bird hunter on the Homer advisory board got his harlequin mounts out of the Seldovia dump.
- After a hunt out of Seldovia carcasses are floating like a feather bed chumming in avian predators like eagle perpetuating that mortality factor.

155, possession

- This does not ask to modify this regulation . It asks to clarify and explain the difference to Minimize confusion between migratory birds and state managed resident birds
- Housekeeping to verify co-management
- The disconnect of the significance of the MBTA needs to be bridged requiring understanding.
- Migratory birds are not resident birds.

156, human consumption; 157, salvage

- Strengthens and clearly states intent of definitions instead of glossing over waste.
- From a processors point of view we have a big problem with waste from lack of quality care
- Regulations can assist though stronger verbage
- Strengthens and clearly states intent of definitions instead of glossing over waste.

166, Transporter

- Amend under different category then transporter for these people who transport
- under waterfowl guide regs as ADFG mentioned
- Create new definition to encompass those who receive monetary compensation and are big players in our management equation
- Nuts and bolts to refine and craft

167, guide and assistant guide

- Amend under waterfowl guide regs as ADFG mentioned
- Create new definition to encompass those who receive monetary compensation and are big players
- Nuts and bolts to refine

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License Fees & Information

Band-Tailed Pigeon, Brant, Sea Duck, and Snow Goose Mandatory Harvest Reporting

To improve management of certain limited migratory bird species, a Migratory Bird Authorization and Harvest Card(s) are required to be in your possession if you are hunting those species (see pp. 12-13).

Immediately after taking a band-tailed pigeon, brant, sea duck (scoters, long-tailed duck, harlequin, goldeneyes) in western Washington, or snow goose (Goose Management Area 1) into possession, you must fill out the required harvest record card information in ink.

You must report hunting activity on your harvest record cards to WDFW using the online reporting system at: fishhunt.dfw.wa.gov/wa/migratorybird or by mailing the cards to: WDFW, Waterfowl Section, 600 Capitol Way N, Olympia, WA 98501.

Reports are due by the reporting deadlines even if you did not harvest any birds.

Please note that you must comply with these reporting requirements or you will be required to pay a \$10 administrative fee before obtaining a harvest record card the next year.

Reporting Deadlines:

Band-tailed Pigeon
September 30, 2013

Sea Duck,
Snow Goose, Brant
February 15, 2014

3 Ways To Buy Your License

Dealer Outlets

Get your license immediately at any of our 600 license dealers.

1. For a dealer near you, visit our website: wdfw.wa.gov/licensing/vendors
2. Or 24 Hours a Day on the Internet: wdfw.wa.gov/licensing
3. Toll-Free Telephone: 1-866-246-9453

Note: Internet and phone orders may take up to 7-10 business days to receive your license in the mail. However, in some cases you can hunt with an authorization number before receiving your license (see page 12).



Discover Pass



The Discover Pass is your ticket to millions of acres of state lands managed by WDFW, the Washington Department of Natural Resources, and Washington State Parks. Your purchase of a Discover Pass helps to keep recreation access open on these state lands.

You don't need a Discover Pass to hunt and fish on WDFW-managed lands. When you purchase a hunting or fishing license, you also receive a complimentary Vehicle Access Pass that gives you access to hunt and fish on WDFW-managed lands.

However, to hunt, fish or recreate on all DNR managed lands and to fish on DNR managed lands AND state parks, you will need a Discover Pass. (Hunting is not allowed in state parks.)

Learn more about when and where you need a Discover Pass and how to purchase the pass at: discoverpass.wa.gov

The annual Discover Pass is \$30 or \$35;* a One-day pass is \$10 or \$11.50.* Passes can be switched between two vehicles.

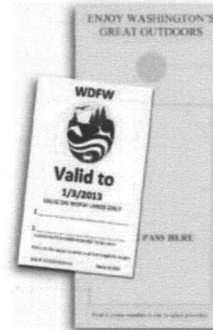
*The cost with transaction and dealer fees if purchased at a license dealer, by phone or online.



Vehicle Access Pass

You must clearly display a Vehicle Access Pass (VAP) to park a vehicle at all posted WDFW wildlife areas and water access sites. The VAP must be visible from outside the vehicle (they can be placed on the dash or hung from the rear-view mirror) and can be switched between two vehicles. You can get a rear-view mirror hanger from your local license dealer.

Your Vehicle Access Pass is free with the purchase of an annual hunting, fishing, or trapping license. It cannot be purchased separately. Your Vehicle Access Pass can be switched between two motor vehicles.



For a list of locations requiring the VAP, visit:

wdfw.wa.gov/lands/wildlife_areas/

Waney Willstrand

INTRODUCTION

The fifteen species of sea ducks (Tribe *Mergini*) are the most poorly understood group of waterfowl in North America. The most basic biological information is unknown for some species. Few species have reliable population indices or estimates of annual productivity, and much of our knowledge is based on a very few, localized studies. Also, current survey design is unable to accurately estimate sea duck harvest.

Sea ducks, as a group, have evolved in relatively stable environments resulting in, for most species, delayed sexual maturity, long life spans and low annual recruitment. For many reasons, the environments inhabited by sea ducks are changing; human endeavors are expanding in northern breeding areas and many traditional wintering areas are increasingly affected by urbanization and industrialization. Thriving gull and other predator populations are placing greater pressure on annual production of some species. Indirect factors, such as bioaccumulation of contaminants and climate change, may be negatively affecting survival and production in some populations; exposure to lead is a documented source of mortality. Only through a concerted effort to determine the interaction of these factors can we hope to effectively conserve sea ducks.

History and Purpose of the Joint Venture

Sea ducks were not given special consideration under the 1986 North American Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP). Although few data were available, most populations were thought to be relatively stable. However, in 1986 the eastern population of Harlequin Ducks was listed as endangered in Canada (later downgraded to a Species of Special Concern), and in 2000 the eastern population of Barrow's Goldeneye was designated as a Species of Special Concern in Canada. Harlequin Ducks and Barrow's Goldeneye are both state-listed as threatened in Maine. Spectacled Eiders and the Alaska breeding population of Steller's Eiders are listed as threatened by the United States.

Analysis of previous survey and harvest data, along with new surveys and studies conducted in the 1990's, indicated population declines in 10 of the 15 species of North American sea ducks. In 1997 Federal, State, Provincial and NGO management agencies proposed a Sea Duck Joint Venture (SDJV) to address these issues at a continental scale. The NAWMP Committee approved the SDJV in November 1998 as the best vehicle to coordinate the conservation of sea ducks. The organizational structure and functions of the SDJV are similar to other species joint ventures under NAWMP and are described in Appendix A.

The SDJV will endeavor to address the needs for information about all 15 species of *Mergini* that occur in North America. Although the focus of the joint venture is on sea duck populations in North America, partnerships with other circumpolar countries sharing these populations will be encouraged.

Executive Summary

The Vision of the Sea Duck Joint Venture (SDJV) is to maintain sustainable populations of North American sea ducks throughout their ranges. The SDJV is guided by the following Mission Statement: the SDJV promotes the conservation of North American sea ducks through partnerships by providing greater knowledge and understanding for effective management.

The goals of the SDJV promote development of short and long-term information gathering programs to determine basic parameters of sea duck populations, such as delineation of ranges and subunits, abundance and trends, production, harvest, and survival rates.

The following outlines the objectives of the 2008-2012 Strategic Plan, under the 4 central pillars of the SDJV (Science, Communications, Funding, and Conservation Actions):

Science:

The SDJV concentrated much of its initial effort on population delineation in an effort to provide a firm foundation for monitoring programs. Effective monitoring of sea duck populations is now a top priority as population trends for most species are based on limited information and abundance estimates are not possible. The Continental Technical Team and Management Board of the SDJV will continue to document the filling of information gaps and improvements in the state of our knowledge of sea ducks as projects are initiated and carried out. The SDJV has identified several important initiatives, based on the aggregate information needs of individual populations, on which to focus over the course of this Strategic Plan:

- Development of effective population survey techniques
- Delineation of populations: Linking breeding, molting and winter ranges
- Population dynamics in Mergini and development of population models
- Improvement of harvest surveys
- Identification of important habitats
- Documentation of biological impacts of contaminants, parasites and disease

Communication:

Effective communication and proactive provision of knowledge and advice are fundamental to achieving SDJV objectives by: raising awareness, developing partnerships, building support within the conservation, industrial, scientific and political communities, and acquiring the requisite resources necessary to achieve goals of the SDJV. These strategies embrace both communication and marketing.

The SDJV successfully sponsored and coordinated two North American sea duck conferences (2002 and 2005) filling a communications gap within the science community. There continues to be a need for facilitated communications so the Third North American Sea Duck conference is planned for November 2008, in Québec City, Québec.

PROPOSAL 155 is to clarify Federal Possession regs not to modify

ELECTRONIC CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS

e-CFR Data is current as of March 13, 2014

Federal Regulations for Migratory Game Bird Hunters 50 CFR Part 20.

http://ecfr.gpoaccess.gov/cgi/t/text/textidx?c=ecfr&tpl=/ecfrbrowse/Title50/50cfr20_main_02.tpl,

When State law is different from the following Federal law the hunter must comply with the most restrictive law.

Title 50: Wildlife and Fisheries

PART 20—MIGRATORY BIRD HUNTING

Subpart B—Definitions

For the purpose of this part, the following terms shall be construed, respectively, to mean and to include:

§20.33 Possession limit. No person shall possess more migratory game birds taken in the United States than the possession limit or the aggregate possession limit, whichever applies.

§20.35 Field possession limit No person shall possess, have in custody, or transport more than the daily bag limit or aggregate daily bag limit, whichever applies, of migratory game birds, tagged or not tagged, at or between the place where taken and either (a) his automobile or principal means of land transportation; or (b) his personal abode or temporary or transient place of lodging; or (c) a migratory bird preservation facility; or (d) a post office; or (e) a common carrier facility.

§20.39 Termination of possession. Subject to all other requirements of this part, the possession of birds taken by any hunter shall be deemed to have ceased when such birds have been delivered by him to another person as a gift; or have been delivered by him to a post office, a common carrier, or a migratory bird preservation facility and consigned for transport by the Postal Service or a common carrier to some person other than the hunter.

(4) Possession limit means the maximum number of migratory game birds of a single species or a combination of species permitted to be possessed by any one person when lawfully taken in the United States in any one specified geographic area for which a possession limit is prescribed.

(5) Aggregate possession limit means the maximum number of migratory game birds of a single species or combination of species taken in the United States permitted to be possessed by any one person when taking and possession occurs in more than one specified geographic area for which a possession limit is prescribed. The aggregate possession limit is equal to, but shall not exceed, the largest possession limit prescribed for any one of the species or specified geographic areas in which taking and possession occurs.

(d) Personal abode means one's principal or ordinary home or dwelling place, as distinguished from one's temporary or transient place of abode or dwelling such as a hunting club, or any club house, cabin, tent or trailer house used as a hunting club, or any hotel, motel or rooming house used during a hunting, pleasure or business trip.

(e) Migratory bird preservation facility means: (1) Any person who, at their residence or place of business and for hire or other consideration; or (2) Any taxidermist, cold-storage facility or locker plant which, for hire or other consideration; or (3) Any hunting club which, in the normal course of operations; receives, possesses, or has in custody any migratory game birds belonging to another person for purposes of picking, cleaning, freezing, processing, storage or shipment.

§20.36 Tagging requirement. No person shall put or leave any migratory game birds at any place (other than at his personal abode), or in the custody of another person for picking, cleaning, processing,

shipping, transportation, or storage (including temporary storage), or for the purpose of having taxidermy services performed, unless such birds have a tag attached, signed by the hunter, stating his address, the total number and species of birds, and the date such birds were killed. Migratory game birds being transported in any vehicle as the personal baggage of the possessor shall not be considered as being in storage or temporary storage.

§20.37 Custody of birds of another. No person shall receive or have in custody any migratory game birds belonging to another person unless such birds are tagged as required by §20.36.

§20.40 Gift of migratory game birds. No person may receive, possess, or give to another, any freshly killed migratory game birds as a gift, except at the personal abodes of the donor or donee, unless such birds have a tag attached, signed by the hunter who took the birds, stating such hunter's address, the total number and species of birds and the date such birds were taken.

§20.41 Prohibited if taken in violation of subpart C. No person shall at any time, by any means, or in any manner, transport any migratory game bird or part thereof, taken in violation of any provision of subpart C of this part.

§20.42 Transportation of birds of another. No person shall transport migratory game birds belonging to another person unless such birds are tagged as required by §20.36.

§20.43 Species identification requirement. No person shall transport within the United States any migratory game birds, except doves and band-tailed pigeons (*Columba fasciata*), unless the head or one fully feathered wing remains attached to each such bird at all times while being transported from the place where taken until they have arrived at the personal abode of the possessor or a migratory bird preservation facility.

§20.44 Marking package or container. No person shall transport by the Postal Service or a common carrier migratory game birds unless the package or container in which such birds are transported has the name and address of the shipper and the consignee and an accurate statement of the numbers of each species of birds therein contained clearly and conspicuously marked on the outside thereof.

PROPOSAL 155 Cont. Examples other states use for clarifying definition of Federal possession

IDAHO: <http://fishandgame.idaho.gov>

General Rules and Information

Migratory birds are protected by federal law as a result of treaties signed with other countries. Protected migratory birds are listed in Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 10.13. This list includes almost all birds found in the United States with the exception of the house sparrow, feral pigeon (commonly called rock dove), European starling, Eurasian collared-dove, mute swan and upland game birds (which are protected by state laws).

All migratory birds are protected.

Additional federal regulations:

In addition to state rules, the following federal regulations apply to the taking, possessing, shipping, transporting, or storing of migratory game birds. This information is only a summary of the major federal regulations which are found in Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 20, and which are available at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CFR-2012-title50-vol1/content-detail.html>

Violation of federal regulations is also a violation of state law.

Federal Bag Limits:

No person shall possess while in the field, have in custody, or transport more than one daily bag limit between the place where taken and either:

- His/her automobile or principle means of land transportation.
- His/her personal abode or temporary place of lodging
- A migratory bird preservation facility.