

RC 41

Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game
Boards Support Section
Statewide Regulations Meeting- Anchorage
907-465-6094

Board of Game members:

The sound management of waterfowl is extremely important to me as both a conservationist and as a hunter and I feel compelled to respond to the waterfowl proposals brought forth at this meeting. I am submitting my personal comments in **opposition** to proposals **151, 152, 153, 154, and 155.**

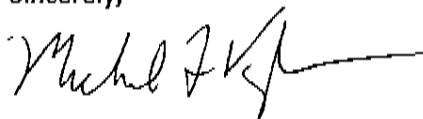
Proposal 151- OPPOSE- I fully support the collection of data that will benefit waterfowl populations and the management of these species however it is not clear to me whether the reporting requirements outlined in this proposal will meet that burden. I would support future department sponsored waterfowl reporting proposals if managers determine that additional harvest information would be meaningful and beneficial to their cause.

Proposals 152, 153, and 154- OPPOSE- I strongly oppose these proposals and the notion that the rib, neck, and backbone meat and the pelvis bone of waterfowl provide for an edible and salvageable meat. Implementation of these proposals would ultimately require hunters to pluck or completely skin all species of waterfowl and maintain the carcass fully intact until consumed to avoid potential violations. Compliance with these proposals would result in a negligible gain in meat yield in many instances, particularly with smaller duck species such as teal and wigeon. It is very bold of the proposer to dictate to the people of Alaska how they should prepare and eat their wild game. The proposer claims spoilage issues related to certain handling methods. In my thirty years of waterfowl hunting, I have never had an issue of meat spoilage due to filleting of the edible meat from a duck carcass.

Proposal 155- OPPOSE- I strongly oppose this proposal as it will severely cut waterfowl hunting opportunity by limiting hunters to a single days possession limit. Waterfowl populations are generally in very good condition as evidenced by record continental waterfowl counts in recent years. The proposer's assertion that an Alaskan should not be able to put up wild game in their freezer for consumption throughout the year is absurd and an insult to the people of Alaska who enjoy and take pride in their ability to provide healthy fish and game meals for their families throughout the year. This proposal has no biological merit and carries a strong anti-hunting message.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,



Mike Vaughn
Waterfowl Enthuslast
Sitka, AK