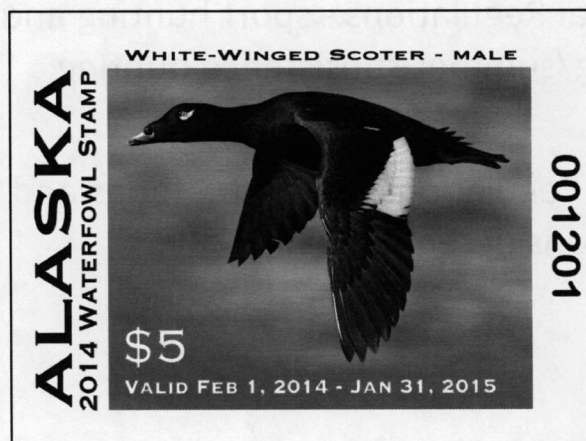


RC 8

Alaska's Waterfowl Regulation Process



Dan Rosenberg, Waterfowl Program Coordinator

Background

- Migratory Bird Treaty Act 1918
- Federal authority to issue regulations compatible with International Treaties
- Sets season lengths (107 days) and closed periods (between March 10 - September 1)
- 1995/1997 amendment to Canadian and Mexican Treaties allowed Alaska Subsistence Exemption

Federal Regulations

- Annual Regulations - sport hunting and spring/summer subsistence hunting
- Basic Regulations - cover methods and means. Not considered annually

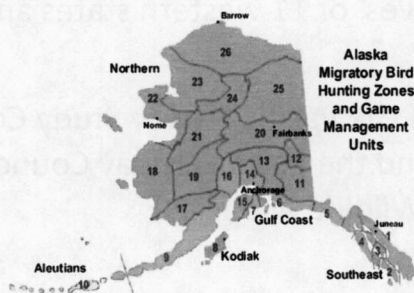
Annual Regulations

Early and Late-Season Regulations

- Establishes Federal Frameworks
- States may select seasons and bag limits within Frameworks
- Frameworks include earliest and latest season opening and closing dates; season length, shooting hours, daily bag and possession limits, zones and split seasons (which may have different regulations), permit hunts and quotas
- States may be more restrictive but not more liberal

Zones and Splits

- Alaska has 5 regulatory zones for waterfowl hunting
- Split Seasons allowed in just one Zone (Kodiak)



- Proposals to split the zone or to split season are eligible for consideration every five years (next in 2015)
- Alaska has "Grandfather Status"

Joint-Federal State Process

- 4 Administrative Flyways.
- Alaska is a member of the Pacific Flyway
- Designed to maximize effectiveness of migratory bird management, coordinate interstate studies and share data, minimize conflicts between states over harvest allocations.

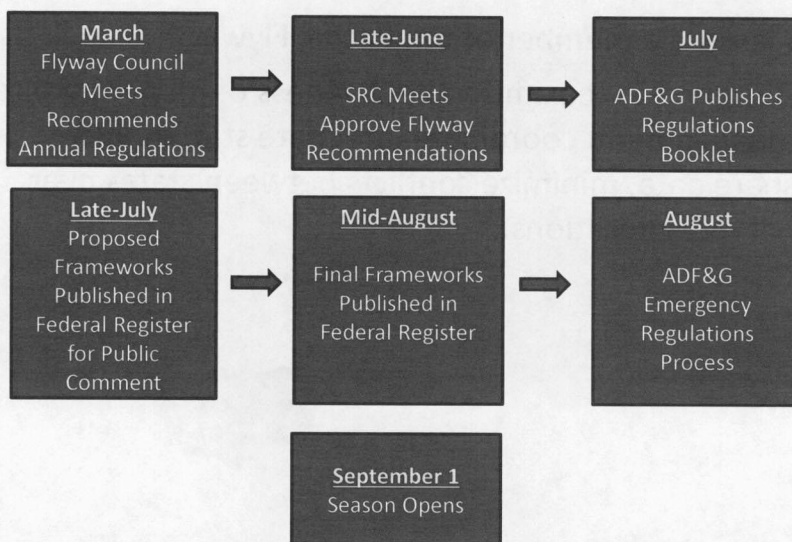


Pacific Flyway Process



- Representatives of 11 western states and Canada
- Composed of the Pacific Flyway Study Committee (Biologists) and the Pacific Flyway Council (Directors of the State Wildlife Agencies)
- Makes formal recommendations for hunting regulations, management actions, and policy to the USFWS

Regulatory Timeline Alaska Early-Season Regulations



Board of Game

- Adopts migratory bird hunting regulations within the federal framework, but
- Waterfowl regulations are often out-of-cycle so adopt Emergency Regulations

Emergency Regulations Process

- Under Delegation of Authority from the BOG (16.05.270)
- Effective August 31 (signed by Lt. Governor)
- Public Comment Period
- Expire December 28 (unless made permanent by the adopting agency)

Examples of BOG Actions

- Kodiak Canada Geese (GMU 8)
- Southeast Hunting Season (GMU's 1-4)
- Kachemak Bay Sea Ducks (GMU 15C).
- Unit 18 Lead Shot Ban
- Waterfowl Guide Registration 2002
- Special Areas Regulations