

**ALASKA BOARD OF GAME**  
**Teleconference on Sea Ducks in the Kachemak Bay Area of Unit 15**  
**May 19, 2009**

**Summary of Actions**

The Alaska Board of Game met by teleconference May 19, 2009. Seven of seven board members were present and public listen-only sites were available at Fish and Game offices in Anchorage and Homer. The purpose of the meeting was to consider a petition submitted by Warren Brown seeking an emergency regulation to increase the bag and possession limits on sea ducks in the Kachemak Bay area of Unit 15.

During consideration of Proposal 117 at the March 2009 meeting in Anchorage, the board decreased the bag and possession limits; however, the new regulation adopted by the board had not yet been filed. The new regulation specified a resident and nonresident bag limit two and possession limit of four of any species of sea ducks in Kachemak Bay.

During the May 19, 2009 teleconference, the board heard an overview of the department comments as outlined in a petition response memo. The department noted that additional background information on sea duck population levels and harvest levels was available. The Department of Law explained that board action to change the effective date of a regulation would not require a finding of emergency, but that a finding of emergency would be necessary in order for the board to make a change in the regulation.

The board expressed reservations that the problem outlined in the petition would justify a finding of emergency. It also expressed interest in having the topic come before the board during a regularly scheduled meeting in order to allow for a more thorough public review and comment period. The initial version of Proposal 117 from March 2009 was too vague to provide the public with enough clarity on potential board action. The board concluded that more time for public review and comment, as well as board analysis, would best serve the public and the resource. For these reasons, the board 1) acted to delay the implementation date of Proposal 117 to July 1, 2010, and 2) decided to bring the proposal back before the board during its January 2010 meeting in Anchorage for additional public review.