

# Migratory Game Bird Regulations Process



Jason Schamber, Wildlife Biologist  
Statewide Waterfowl Program

# Background

- **Migratory Bird Treaty Act 1918**
- **Federal authority to issue regulations compatible with International Treaties**
- **Sets season lengths (107 days) and closed period (between March 10 - September 1)**
- **1995/1997 amendment to Treaties with Canada and Mexico allowed Alaska subsistence harvest exemption**

# Federal Regulations

- **Annual Regulations - fall hunting and spring/summer subsistence hunting**
- **Basic Regulations - cover methods and means *Not considered on an annual basis***

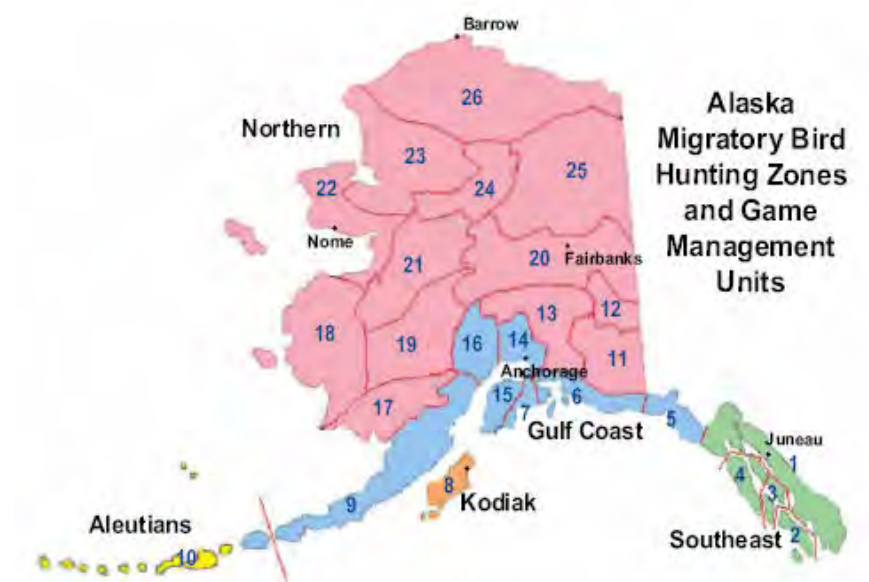
# **Annual Regulations**

## **Early and Late-Season Regulations**

- **Establishes Federal Frameworks**
- **States may select seasons and bag limits within Frameworks**
- **Frameworks include 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 2020)
- 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**



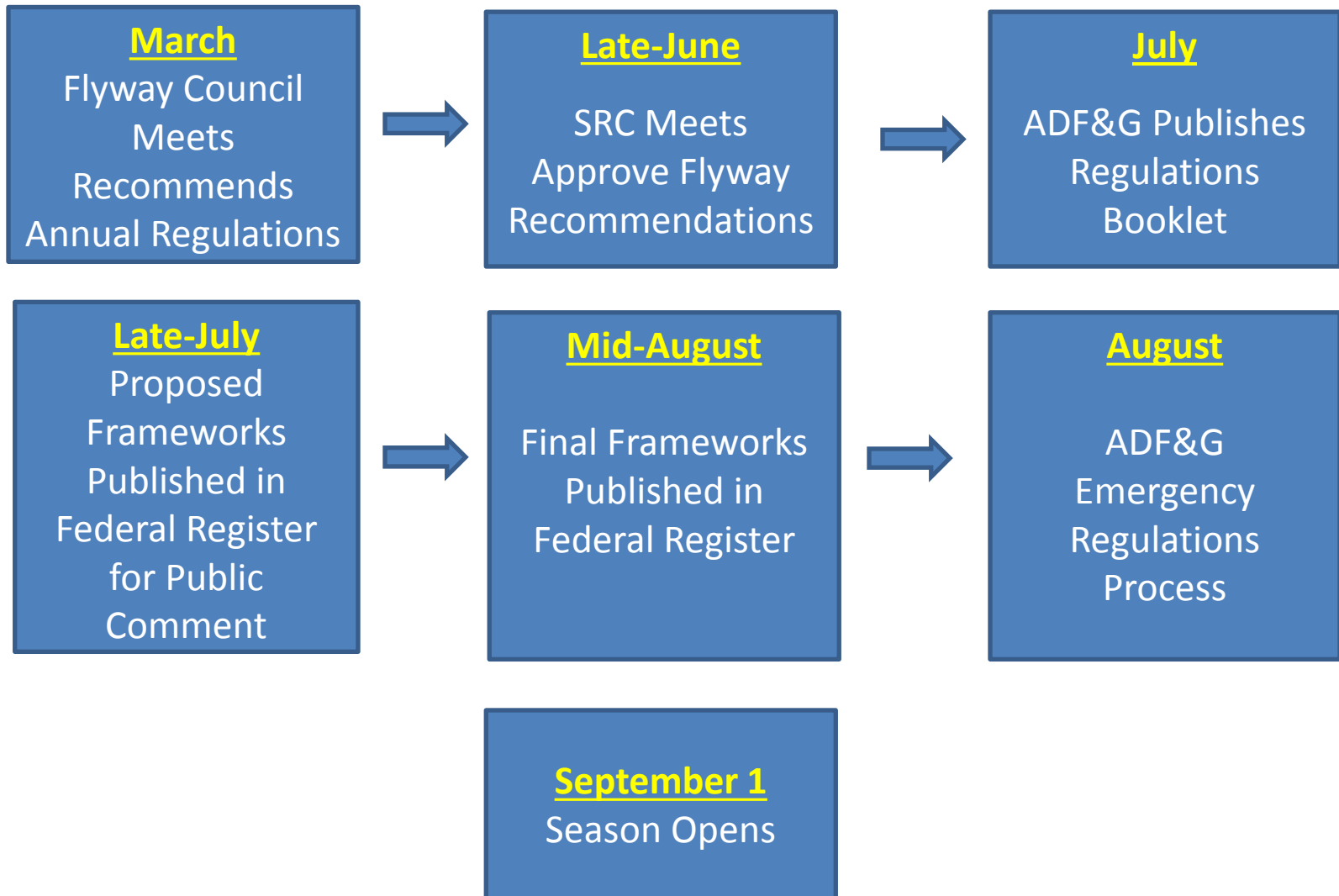
# Pacific Flyway Process



- **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 Regulations Committee (SRC)**

# Past Regulatory Timeline

## Alaska Early-Season Regulations





# **State Board of Game**

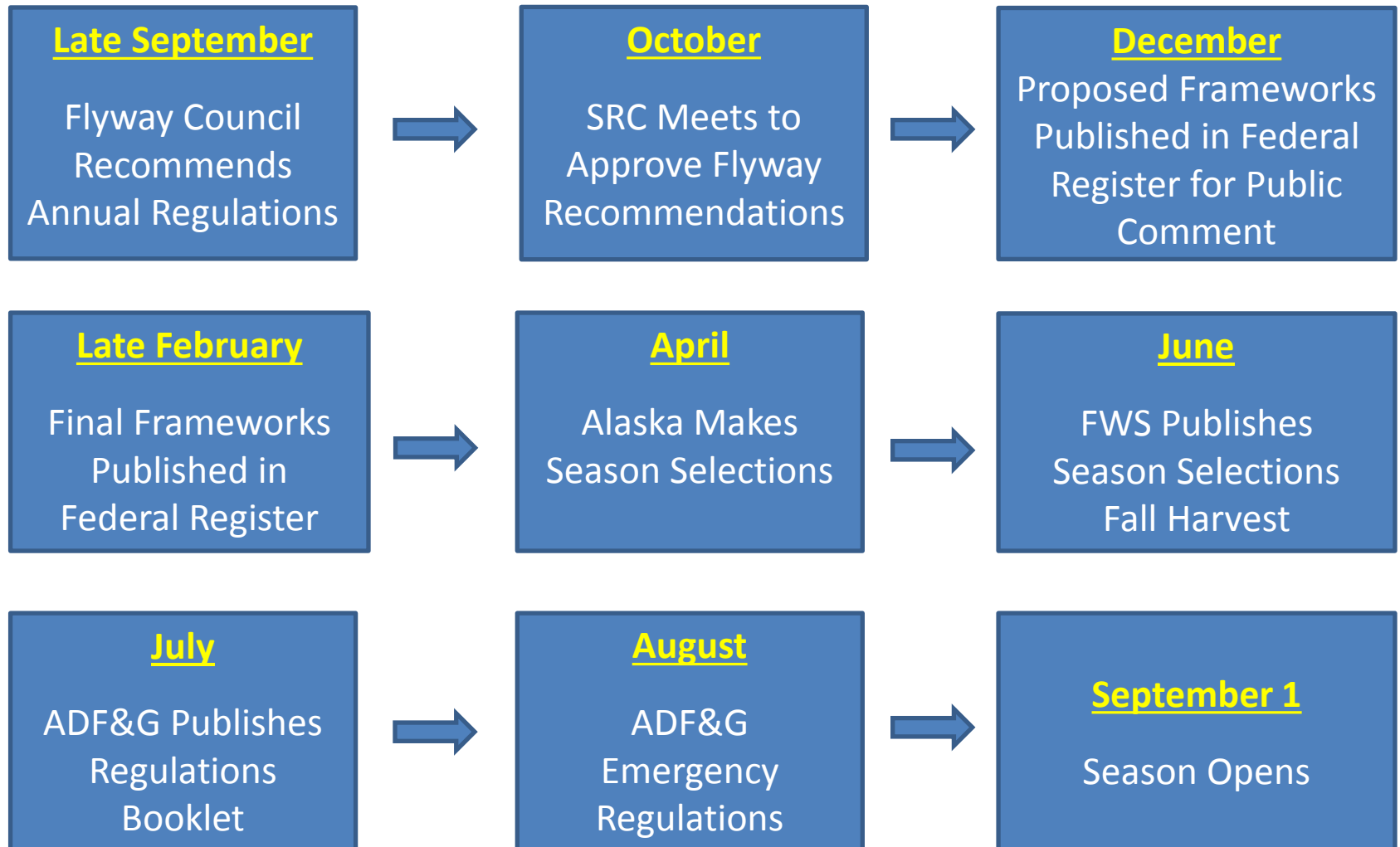
- **Adopts migratory bird hunting regulations within the federal framework, but**
- **Waterfowl regulations are often out-of-cycle so adopt Emergency Regulations**

# **Emergency Regulations Process**

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

# New Regulatory Timeline

## Early/Late Season Regulations



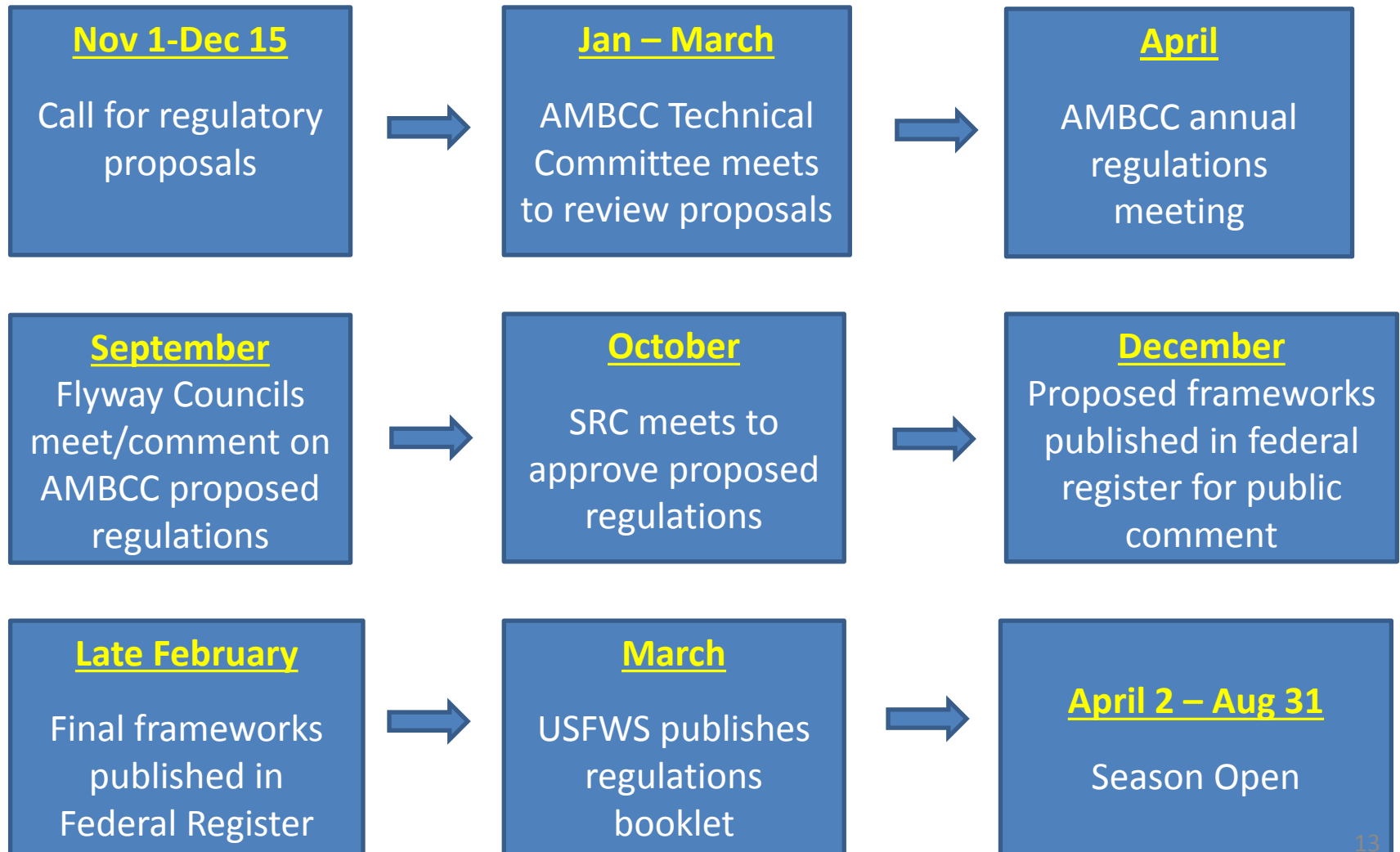
# Spring/Summer Subsistence Harvest Regulations



## Alaska Migratory Bird Co-Management Council Process

- After 1997 amendment to the Treaties, the AMBCC established – 3 members each with equal vote
- AMBCC:
  - Native Caucus - 11 Alaska Native regions
  - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
  - Alaska Dept. Fish and Game
- Function as a separate Flyway
- Federal subsistence regulations establish annual and basic subsistence regulations

# AMBCC Regulatory Timeline



Thank you!

