

ACR 7 – Open a general/subsistence hunt for emperor geese in Units 8, 9, 10, 17, 18, 22, and 23, and establish a Customary and Traditional Use finding.

SUBMITTED BY: Alaska Migratory Bird Co-Management Council (AMBCC)

CITE THE REGULATION THAT WILL BE CHANGED IF THIS ACR IS HEARD.

5 AAC 85.065(4)(G) Hunting seasons and bag limits for small game, and 5 AAC 99.025(12) Customary and traditional uses of small game

WHAT IS THE PROBLEM YOU WOULD LIKE THE BOARD TO ADDRESS? STATE IN DETAIL THE NATURE OF THE CURRENT PROBLEM.

The general season for emperor geese was closed in 1986 through the 2016-17 season because of low population abundance. The population has recently recovered to a harvestable level. The Alaska Migratory Bird Co-Management Council (AMBCC) collaborated with the Pacific Flyway Council to revise the Flyway Management Plan for emperor geese including new harvest guidelines for the general hunt, specifying a quota of 1,000 birds per year apportioned to the State of Alaska. In October 2016, a Federal framework change under the new guidelines to open a hunt of emperor geese in 2017 was approved. The AMBCC requests the board review this regulation to open a general/subsistence hunt of emperor geese in 2017. The AMBCC recognizes the State is authorized to open this hunt through emergency order; however, for the sake of transparency and the public process, the AMBCC requests board review. The AMBCC anticipates high public interest in this regulation.

Note: 5 AAC 92.005(b) the board may change the board's schedule for consideration of proposed regulatory changes as reasonably necessary for coordination of state regulatory actions with federal agencies, programs or laws. This may pertain to the recent change in the Federal framework to allow an open hunt of emperor geese that was previously closed.

WHAT SOLUTION DO YOU PREFER?

Units 8, 9, 10, 17, 18, 22, and 23: One emperor goose by registration permit only
The AMBCC recommends the board make a Customary and Traditional Use finding.

STATE IN DETAIL HOW THIS ACR MEETS THE CRITERIA STATED ABOVE.

a) for a conservation purpose or reason: Not applicable.

b) to correct an error in regulation: Not applicable.

c) to correct an effect on a hunt that was unforeseen when a regulation was adopted:

The regulation for a closed 2016/2017 general hunt of emperor geese was retained in the Federal framework because the population was below an allowable harvest threshold. A population model was developed in 2016 that integrated 30 years of survey data to provide a population estimate of 150,000-170,000 geese; approximately twice the size than was previously known. A change in the Federal framework was approved in October 2016 to allow an open hunt of emperor geese, following a revision of the Emperor Goose

Management Plan (Plan). The revised Plan included a new population objective and population monitoring method, and a harvest strategy that guided regulations for this hunt.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF THIS PROBLEM IS NOT SOLVED PRIOR TO THE REGULAR CYCLE? Under the regular cycle, this regulation change would not be addressed until the 2017/2018 Statewide regulations meeting. If this regulation change is not addressed in the 2016/2017 cycle, the State regulation for the general/subsistence hunt of emperor geese will remain closed in 2017 and hunting opportunity will be lost.

STATE WHY YOUR ACR IS NOT PREDOMINANTLY ALLOCATIVE. The AMBCC requests the board review opening the general/subsistence hunt in the 2017 season for a species that has been closed to harvest since 1986.

IF THIS REQUEST IS ALLOCATIVE, STATE THE NEW INFORMATION THAT COMPELS THE BOARD TO CONSIDER AN ALLOCATIVE PROPOSAL OUTSIDE OF THE REGULAR CYCLE.

STATE YOUR INVOLVEMENT IN THE ISSUE THAT IS THE SUBJECT OF THIS ACR. The AMBCC is a regulatory and management body – members include the USFWS, ADF&G and Alaska Native regional representatives.

STATE WHETHER THIS ACR HAS BEEN CONSIDERED BEFORE, EITHER AS A PROPOSAL OR AS AN ACR, AND IF SO, DURING WHICH BOARD OF GAME MEETING. This ACR has not been considered before.