

ACR 7 – Close the nonresident season for emperor geese in Units 8, 9, and 10.

SUBMITTED BY: Alaska Migratory Bird Co-Management Council

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

5 AAC 85.065(a)(4)(G) Hunting season and bag limits for small game

Resident Open Season

Nonresident
Open Season

(G) Emperor geese
Units and Bag Limits

Units 8 and 10

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

[Oct. 8 - Jan. 22] **No open season**

Unit 9; that portion within the
Izembek State Game Refuge

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

[Oct. 16 - Oct 31] **No open season**

Unit 9, remainder

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

[Sept. 1 - Dec. 16] **No open season**

WHAT IS THE PROBLEM YOU WOULD LIKE THE BOARD TO ADDRESS? STATE IN DETAIL THE NATURE OF THE CURRENT PROBLEM. In accordance with the Alaska Migratory Bird Co-Management Council's (AMBCC) Emperor Goose Management Plan, once the population index is below 28,000 birds, the AMBCC will consider implementing conservation measures for the 2020 spring-summer subsistence harvest season. The State of Alaska will do the same for the 2020 fall-winter season and have reduced the number of birds allowed to be taken from 1000 to 500. Currently, the State of Alaska allocates 25 of the 500 birds to nonresident hunters as a draw permit.

WHAT SOLUTION DO YOU PREFER? The AMBCC will be conducting intensive outreach and education activities prior to the spring-summer season in an effort to reduce the harvest numbers of emperor geese. We are requesting that the state forego issuing any nonresident permits until the population index is above 28,000 birds.

STATE IN DETAIL HOW THIS ACR MEETS THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA:

- 1) **To correct an error in regulation.** Not applicable
- 2) **To correct an effect of a regulation that was unforeseen when a regulation was adopted.** Not applicable
- 3) **Does the request identify a biological concern for the population or a threat to meeting objectives for the population?** Yes, the population of emperor geese appears to be in

decline. This could be due to a number of factors, but the only tool we have to assist this species to recover is address harvest levels.

- 4) **Does the request identify an unforeseen, unexpected event or effect that would otherwise restrict or reduce a reasonable opportunity for customary and traditional wildlife uses, as defined in AS 16.05.258(f)?** Not applicable.
- 5) **Does the request identify an unforeseen, unexpected resource situation where a biologically allowable resource harvest would be precluded by delayed regulatory action and such delay would be significantly burdensome because the resource would be unavailable in the future?** Not applicable

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF THIS PROBLEM IS NOT SOLVED PRIOR TO THE REGULAR CYCLE? Permits will be issued to nonresidents for a bird whose population is in apparent decline.

STATE WHY YOUR ACR IS NOT PREDOMINANTLY ALLOCATIVE. No applicable.

IF THIS REQUEST IS ALLOCATIVE, STATE THE NEW INFORMATION THAT COMPELS THE BOARD TO CONSIDER AN ALLOCATIVE PROPOSAL OUTSIDE OF THE REGULAR CYCLE. No applicable.

STATE YOUR INVOLVEMENT IN THE ISSUE THAT IS THE SUBJECT OF THIS ACR. The AMBCC is the organization responsible for proposing regulations that govern the spring-summer subsistence harvest of migratory birds in Alaska. The AMBCC worked to open harvest of emperor geese in 2017. Since then, the population index has declined from 28,000 birds to 26,000. Outreach and education efforts are underway, and this request is another strategy to help the population recover.

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. When the Board of Game approved an open season for emperor geese, the AMBCC requested that there be no non-resident permits due to this being a new hunt and the uncertainty of what the harvest levels would be. This request was denied and the Board of Game took action to allocate 25 birds to nonresidents.