

2005-2006 Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Goose Management Plan

The 2005-2006 Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Goose Management Plan is enclosed. It requires the signature of the following parties:

Myron Naneng, President
Association of Village Council Presidents

Rowan Gould, Regional Director
U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 7

David B. Allen, Regional Director
U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 1

Leslie Holland-Bartels, Dep. Regional Director
U. S. Geological Survey, Biological Resources Division

McKie Campbell, Commissioner
Alaska Department of Fish and Game

L. Ryan Broddrick, Director
California Department of Fish and Game

Ron Anglin, Wildlife Division Administrator
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

J. David Brittell, Asst. Director, Wildlife Program
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

The Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Goose Management Plan

The goal of this plan is to restore and maintain healthy population levels of cackling geese, emperor geese, Pacific white-fronted geese, and Pacific brant from the prime nesting areas on the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta (Delta) to Pacific Flyway wintering grounds. The parties to the plan are the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADFG), the Association of Village Council Presidents (Association), the Association's Waterfowl Conservation Committee (Committee), the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG), the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), and the Alaska Science Center, Biological Resources Division of the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS-BRD). These parties agree that continued cooperation is essential to achieve the stated goal and to maintain the affected populations at levels that provide for hunting and other beneficial uses of the species throughout their ranges. Cooperative efforts have been identified in each version of this plan, implemented since 1984. The plan has been effective in achieving reduced harvest and increased populations of the four species of Arctic nesting geese.

The Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Spectacled Eider and Steller's Eider Management Plan is included in this document as Attachment 1. It is signed only by the Alaska parties to this plan because spectacled and Steller's eiders do not occur in California, Oregon, or Washington.

A. POLICY

- A.1.** The USFWS, in cooperation with the State of Alaska and other interested parties, including Alaska Native entities, will take all necessary steps to implement the provisions contained in the amended migratory bird treaties with Canada and Mexico that allow for the legal harvest of migratory birds in the spring and summer in Alaska.
- A.2.** All participants recognize that the issue of the standard to which the Secretary of the Interior may exercise his discretionary authority is of importance to Alaska Native people and their respective governments and has not been addressed in this plan.
- A.3.** This plan in no way will amend, alter, or abolish the agreements between the USFWS and village corporations for biological studies at Kokechik Bay.
- A.4.** Special attention has been given to the protection of cackling geese, emperor geese, Pacific white-fronted geese, and Pacific brant. These species experienced severe population declines in the past, and cackling geese, emperor geese, and Pacific brant continue to need special conservation efforts.
- a. Spring and Summer.** In order to protect the four species of geese, priority will be given to monitoring, verification, and enforcement in accordance with regulations established through the Alaska Migratory Bird Co-management Council process, including:
- No taking of emperor geese at any time;
 - No taking of cackling geese, Pacific white-fronted geese, or brant during the nesting, brood-rearing, and flightless periods;
 - No taking the eggs of emperor geese, cackling geese or brant;
 - No use of charter or private aircraft for direct purposes of hunting for any waterfowl during the spring and summer season, except for travel to and from village airports.
- b. Fall Season.** During the open season beginning September 1, monitoring, verification and enforcement provisions of this plan provide opportunities for subsistence and sport harvest of black brant, cackling, and white-fronted geese. The taking of emperor geese is prohibited.
- A.5.** Use of game for dire emergency may occur with no penalty.
- A.6.** The plan shall remain in effect for two years from the last date of signing, with review annually, and may be changed at any time upon agreement of all parties.

- A.7.** At each research camp, the agencies party to this plan shall provide maximum opportunity and involvement of local residents to work as biological technicians. The agencies will work with the Association to meet this objective.
- A.8.** In order to protect waterfowl from lead poisoning caused by further lead shot deposition on the Delta, personal possession or use of lead shot is prohibited while hunting waterfowl on the Delta. This is in accordance with Federal and State regulations.

B. CONSERVATION

- B.1.** The Association and its Waterfowl Conservation Committee will be supplied with annual population and harvest data and will be included in resource discussions involving Arctic-nesting goose biology, regulation, research, and management.
- B.2.** All parties support the acquisition of additional wintering habitat in the Pacific Flyway, designation of some of this habitat as sanctuaries where no hunting would be allowed, and special efforts to develop or maintain high water quality.
- B.3.** All parties shall refrain from unnecessarily disturbing the four goose species of concern during their nesting, rearing, molting, staging, and pre-migration periods.
- B.4.** Appropriate Federal and State resource agencies and other interested parties will continue to cooperate to improve scientific research on the four species of geese, and will cooperate in securing public and private funds to carry out this research.
- B.5.** The USFWS Regional Office, Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge staff, and staff of the USGS-BRD shall meet with the Waterfowl Conservation Committee and other interested parties no later than April 15 to review an annual biological research plan for the Delta.
- B.6.** The USFWS will identify specific research needs, flyway-wide, in addressing current problems of Arctic-nesting geese, including:
- Sources of migratory waterfowl mortality;
 - Identification of habitat changes, potential impacts, and mitigating measures;
 - Environmental contaminants and diseases;
 - Predation; and
 - The effects of air pollution on waterfowl in the Pacific Flyway with regard to the four species of geese.
- B.7.** The USFWS, the States (Alaska, California, Oregon, and Washington), and the Committee will coordinate with all interested parties to implement and periodically update species management plans for the four goose populations.

- B.8.** The use of nontoxic shot, such as steel shot, will be enforced due to the serious conservation concerns raised by the ingestion of toxic lead shot by waterfowl.

C. FINANCES

- C.1.** The USFWS and States will cooperate fully with the Committee in designing budget requests and allocating funds that would meet the agreed upon conditions of this plan.

D. ALLOCATION AND HARVEST

- D.1.** The USFWS periodically will supply information on the harvest levels of black brant in Mexico, and if a significantly increased harvest occurs, all parties will make every effort to achieve a reduction of harvest in Mexico.
- D.2.** The state wildlife agencies will work with USFWS to conduct surveys of fall harvest of geese throughout the Pacific Flyway. Results of surveys will be provided to the Association and the Committee.
- D.3.** As agreed upon by the Association, the Committee, and tribal governments, the USFWS and ADFG may conduct surveys of spring, summer and fall harvest of geese on the Delta.
- D.4.** The USFWS and the Pacific Flyway Council, in consultation with all interested parties, will establish minimum and optimum population levels in the Flyway Management Plans for the four goose species. Population objectives and management strategies are presented below:

	Cackling Geese	White-fronted Geese	Pacific Black Brant	Emperor Geese
Population Objective	250,000	300,000	150,000	150,000
Minimum Population Levels	80,000	95,000	90,000	60,000

No hunting when populations are below minimum levels. Hunting is possible again when populations rise above the following levels:

110,000	120,000	110,000	80,000
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(All population levels are based on 3-year running averages of annual index counts for each species: spring for emperors, summer for cacklers and white-fronts, and winter for brant.)

- D.5.** As populations of any of the four species approach the minimum population levels, reach the harvestable population levels after closures, or reach the

population objectives addressed in D.4 above, all parties agree to closely analyze the biological significance and develop further management strategies to include appropriate harvest opportunities and/or restrictions.

- D.6. No hunting is allowed for emperor geese at any time throughout the Pacific Flyway.
- D.7. Pacific Flyway harvests of black brant and cackling geese will be managed at levels to achieve population increases of 5-10% annually toward objectives identified in D.4. Harvests of white-fronted geese will be managed to maintain the population at objective level.

E. COMMUNICATIONS

- E.1. All interested parties will work together through an information and education task force to cooperatively develop and implement a comprehensive program to educate all affected parties on reasons for the population declines and on cooperative efforts to attain the population objectives identified in D.4.
- E.2. Requests from outside observers to visit Native owned lands on the Delta to make observations or prepare articles on activities related to the plan shall be referred to the Committee. The Committee will review such requests and forward them to the villages that control the land, along with a recommendation as to whether the visit should be approved. The village will have final say on approval.

F. MONITORING, VERIFICATION, AND ENFORCEMENT

The following procedures have been developed for monitoring, verifying, and enforcing compliance with Sections A.4, A.8, B.8, D.4, and D.6 of this plan.

- F.1. **Information and Education.** The parties to the plan will cooperate closely in designing and implementing an intensive joint information and education program. A major purpose of this program is to explain the plan and the need for compliance with it to residents of the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta.
- F.2. a. **Monitoring Compliance.** Monitoring of the spring and summer season, especially in regard to cackling geese, emperor geese, Pacific white-fronted geese, Pacific brant and the use of nontoxic shot, will be a cooperative effort between the USFWS, the State of Alaska, the Association's Waterfowl Conservation Committee, local village governments, and residents of the Delta.
- b. **Reporting Incidents.** Violations of the plan in Alaska involving the four species of geese should be reported to the Refuge Manager, Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge, as soon as possible after they have been observed.

The Refuge Manager will record the reported incidents on Incident Report Forms and will provide copies of Incident Reports to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, the affected village, and the Association.

- F.3. a. Verifying Occurrence of Violations.** At the request of AVCP, representatives of the USFWS, ADFG, the Association, or the Committee will travel together and coordinate with tribal governments in investigating reports of violations as soon as possible after they are reported. In the event that no representatives of other parties to this plan are available, the USFWS and the State of Alaska will contact the village government and investigate to the extent possible and report their findings to other participants as soon as possible.
- b. Summarizing Investigations of Incidents.** Results of visits to villages will be summarized in writing and appended to original Incident Reports.
- c. Other Verification of Compliance.** An additional method of verification will be through periodic village visits, conducted jointly by representatives of the USFWS, ADFG, Association, and Committee. The purposes of these trips will be to:
- Evaluate the effectiveness of the cooperative information and education effort;
 - Provide support for implementation of the plan; and
 - Evaluate compliance with the plan.
- F.4. Enforcing the Harvest Provisions of This Plan.** If compliance does not occur despite efforts described above, additional steps of enforcement will be necessary. The USFWS and the State of Alaska intend to confiscate any of the four species of geese and/or their eggs taken in flagrant violation¹ of the principles described in section A.4, and will collect all necessary information on the incident. The provisions supporting the use of nontoxic shot will be enforced. Although the USFWS and the State of Alaska are responsible for enforcement of regulations established under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, the parties to this plan will be informed of any steps taken regarding violations. The USFWS and the State of Alaska will consult with the Association, the Committee, or their designee, and the leader of the affected tribal government prior to issuing a citation for flagrant violations involving the four species of geese. The purpose of notifying the entities above is to insure future compliance with the Goose Management Plan. The USFWS and the State of Alaska intend to issue citations in a timely manner for violations under the following circumstances:

¹ Flagrant violations are those that demonstrate willful disregard for the provisions of this plan designed to protect the four species of geese. They include taking these geese during nesting, brood rearing, or flightless periods; and taking at other times in numbers and/or under circumstances that cannot be condoned on the basis of emergency or other special considerations.

- Flagrant violations observed directly by USFWS or State of Alaska personnel;
- Reports from other parties of confirmed flagrant violations;
- Requests from local village governments regarding confirmed, recurring non-compliance;
- Use of charter or private aircraft for direct purposes of hunting for any waterfowl during the spring and summer season, except for travel to and from village airports.

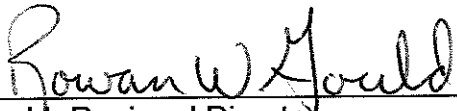
- F.5. Annual Enforcement Activities.** Monitoring camps will not be established on private lands without written permission of the landowner. Monitoring camps will be established on USFWS lands only after notification of the Association. Helicopters will not be used for monitoring or enforcement activities except where human life is threatened or for other extreme emergencies, or where flagrant violations of the plan have been reported and no other reasonable means of transportation are available to investigate the violations. The USFWS agrees by April 15 of each year to provide an outline to the Association of all proposed monitoring and enforcement activities associated with the plan.
- F.6. Use of Confiscated Geese.** Confiscated geese taken in violation of the Goose Management Plan shall be returned to the local Traditional/IRA Council of the village near where the violation occurred, donated to the Senior Center in Bethel, retained when necessary for use as evidence, or used for research as part of a USFWS approved biological study. The confiscated birds that are returned to the village shall be given to a needy family and not returned to the hunter that was in violation.
- F.7. Summary Monitoring Report.** The USFWS, in cooperation with the States, the Association, and Committee, will compile a written summary report of all documented incidents and any enforcement actions taken. This report will be provided to all parties of the plan.

Effective 2005 - 2006

We, the undersigned, hereby concur with and support the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Goose Management Plan.

Concur: 
Myron Naneng, President
Association of Village Council Presidents

10-27-05
Date

Concur: 
Rowan Gould, Regional Director
U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 7

11/1/05
Date

Concur: _____
David B. Allen, Regional Director
U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 1

Date

Concur: _____
Leslie Holland-Bartels, Dep. Regional Director
U. S. Geological Survey, Biological Resources Division

Date

Concur: _____
McKie Campbell, Commissioner
Alaska Department of Fish and Game

Date

Concur: _____
L. Ryan Broddrick, Director
California Department of Fish and Game

Date

Concur: _____
Ron Anglin, Wildlife Division Administrator
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

Date

Concur: _____
J. David Brittell, Asst. Director, Wildlife Program
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

Date

ATTACHMENT 1

**YUKON-KUSKOKWIM DELTA
SPECTACLED EIDER AND STELLER'S EIDER
MANAGEMENT PLAN**

This attachment to the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Goose Management Plan (GMP) addresses cooperative conservation and management of spectacled and Steller's eiders on the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta (Delta), Alaska. The attachment is signed by fewer signatories than the main body of the GMP; the States of California, Oregon and Washington are not signatories because spectacled and Steller's eiders do not occur in those states.

As an attachment to the GMP, this document retains the numbering/lettering and, wherever possible, the original wording of the GMP. Subsections which apply to spectacled and/or Steller's eiders appear in the attachment with modifications and additions as appropriate for management of spectacled and Steller's eiders. Subsections of the GMP which do not apply to spectacled and Steller's eiders appear in the attachment with the following note: "This subsection of the GMP does not apply to spectacled or Steller's eiders."

Background

Spectacled eiders are known to breed in three primary locations: the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta, the North Slope of Alaska, and Arctic Russia. Limited nesting may also occur on St. Lawrence Island and the Seward Peninsula in Alaska. The spectacled eider was listed in 1993 as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, primarily on the basis of estimates by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) that the number of nesting pairs on the Delta had declined from approximately 47,740 pairs in the early 1970s to 1,721 pairs by 1992—a rapid and continuing decline of over 96%. Numbers of nesting spectacled eiders on the Kashunuk River declined by more than 75% from 1969-1992. Corroborating evidence for the decline came from aerial and ground surveys conducted since 1985 that indicated that the breeding population on the Delta was continuing to decline by 9-14% per year through 1992. From 1992-2004, these surveys suggested that the breeding population on the Delta might have stabilized, at least temporarily. However, numbers remain at very low levels.

Results of genetics studies have show that while males appear to disperse and breed freely across the species' range, females are highly philopatric. This suggests that if breeding females from the Delta were extirpated, females from other nesting areas would not be likely to recolonize the area.

Factors known or suspected as affecting spectacled eider survival include: lead poisoning caused by lead shot in the environment, increased predation by birds and mammals, direct take of birds or eggs by humans, research activities, competition,

interactions with commercial fisheries, environmental contaminants, and disease and parasites.

The deposition of lead shot by hunters in habitats used for foraging is a significant threat to spectacled eiders. Spectacled eiders and other waterfowl swallow the lead pellets while feeding, and the pellets cause lead poisoning. Lead poisoning can cause death or can cause sublethal effects that reduce the bird's ability to survive and reproduce. An eider was found with ingested lead shot on the Delta in 1978, and confirmed mortalities due to lead ingestion were recorded in 1992-1994. In 1993-1996, elevated levels of lead were found in pre-nesting females, females during hatch, and females and ducklings during brood rearing. Lead shot has also been seen in x-rays of spectacled eider gizzards. Recent research also indicates that lead shot remains available to birds for at least several years after it is deposited by hunters. This is probably because of the permafrost and the subarctic freezing and thawing cycles.

Information from subsistence harvest surveys on the Delta indicates that the average subsistence harvest between 1993 and 2002 was lower than the average harvest between 1985 and 1992. However, because the population of spectacled eiders on the Delta is low, and is significantly affected by lead poisoning, any hunting of spectacled eiders is a problem. In order to ensure that spectacled eiders will not be lost from the Delta, they should not be hunted.

The Spectacled Eider Recovery Plan, completed in 1996, outlines the status of the species, known and potential causes for decline, obstacles to recovery, objectives and criteria for reclassification or delisting, strategies for recovery, and specific recovery tasks necessary for achieving recovery of the population.

Steller's eiders breeding in Alaska were listed as threatened in 1997, because: 1) the number of Steller's eiders that breed in Alaska has declined during the last few decades, and 2) the breeding range of Steller's eiders within Alaska has greatly contracted as a result of near extirpation from the Delta, and 3) as a result, the remaining breeding population in Alaska is more vulnerable to extirpation.

Plan

The following provisions for spectacled and Steller's eiders are adopted by the Association of Village Council Presidents (Association), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), the Alaska Science Center of the Biological Resources Division, U.S. Geological Survey (USGS-BRD), and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADFG), as signatories to this eider plan.

A. POLICY

- A.1.** The USFWS, in cooperation with the State of Alaska and other interested parties, including Alaska Native entities, will take all necessary steps to implement the provisions contained in the amended Migratory Bird Treaties with

Canada and Mexico that allow for the legal harvest of birds in the spring and summer in Alaska.

- A.2.** All participants recognize that the issue of the standard to which the Secretary of the Interior may exercise his discretionary authority is of importance to Alaska Native people and their respective governments and has not been addressed in this plan.
- A.3.** This plan in no way will amend, alter, or abolish the agreements between the USFWS and village corporations for biological studies at Kokechik Bay.
- A.4.** Special attention will be given to the protection of spectacled eiders and Steller's eiders. These species have suffered severe population declines in western Alaska during recent decades and need special attention.
- a. Spring and Summer Season.** In order to protect spectacled eiders and Steller's eiders during the spring and summer season, priority will be given to monitoring, verification, and enforcement in accordance with regulations established through the Alaska Migratory Bird Comanagement Council process, including:
- No taking of spectacled eiders or Steller's eiders, or their eggs, at any time.
- b. Fall Season.** Priority also will be given to monitoring, verification, and enforcement provisions of this plan for the fall season beginning September 1, in accordance with established state and federal regulations, including:
- No taking of spectacled eiders or Steller's eiders, or their eggs, at any time.
- A.5.** Use of game for dire emergency may occur with no penalty.
- A.6.** The plan shall remain in effect for two years from the last date of signing, with review annually, and may be changed at any time upon agreement of all parties.
- A.7.** At each research camp, the agencies party to this Plan shall provide maximum opportunities and involvement of local residents to work as biological technicians. The agencies will work with the Association to meet this objective.
- A.8.** In order to protect spectacled and Steller's eiders from lead poisoning caused by further lead shot deposition on the Delta, personal possession or use of lead shot is prohibited while hunting waterfowl on the Delta. This is in accordance with Federal and State regulations.

B. CONSERVATION

- B.1.** The Association and its Waterfowl Conservation Committee will be supplied with annual population and harvest data and will be included in resource discussions involving spectacled and Steller's eider biology, regulation, research, and management.
- B.2.** (This subsection of the GMP does not apply to spectacled or Steller's eiders).
- B.3.** All parties shall refrain from unnecessarily disturbing spectacled eiders or Steller's eiders during their nesting, rearing, molting, staging, and pre-migration periods.
- B.4.** Appropriate Federal and State resource agencies and other interested parties will continue to cooperate to improve scientific research on spectacled eiders and Steller's eiders, and will cooperate in securing public and private funds to carry out this research.
- B.5.** The USFWS Regional Office, Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge Staff, and staff of the Alaska Science Center shall meet with the Waterfowl Conservation Committee and other interested parties no later than April 15 to review an annual biological research plan for the Delta.
- B.6.** The USFWS will identify specific annual research and management needs for spectacled eiders and Steller's eiders on the Delta, with input from the Spectacled Eider Recovery Team, and according to the outline of recovery tasks in the Spectacled Eider Recovery Plan. These will include:
- Coordinate recovery and management efforts between and among government agencies and Native and other non-governmental organizations.
 - Increase efforts to reduce mortality.
 - Quantify and monitor existing breeding population.
 - Determine molting, migration, and wintering areas and habitats.
 - Conduct research on the demography and biology of the species and develop demographic models.
 - Attempt to determine the obstacles to recovery and causes for decline.
- B.7.** (This subsection of the GMP does not apply to spectacled or Steller's eiders).
- B.8.** The use of nontoxic shot, such as steel shot, will be enforced due to the serious conservation concerns raised by the ingestion of toxic lead shot by waterfowl.

C. FINANCES

- C.1.** The USFWS and State of Alaska will cooperate fully with the Committee in designing budget requests and allocating funds that would meet the agreed upon conditions of this plan.

D. ALLOCATION AND HARVEST

- D.1.** (This subsection of the GMP does not apply to spectacled or Steller's eiders).
- D.2.** (This subsection of the GMP does not apply to spectacled or Steller's eiders).
- D.3.** As agreed upon by the Association, the Committee, and tribal governments, the USFWS and ADFG may conduct surveys of spring, summer, and fall harvest of migratory birds on the Delta.
- D.4.** No hunting of spectacled or Steller's eiders as long as spectacled and Steller's eiders remain on the list of threatened and endangered species. Criteria for reclassification of spectacled eiders under the Endangered Species Act from threatened to endangered or from endangered to threatened, or for removal of spectacled eiders from the list of threatened and endangered species (delisting) are outlined in the Spectacled Eider Recovery Plan.
- D.5.** If spectacled or Steller's eiders are delisted, all parties agree to closely analyze the biological significance and develop further management strategies to include appropriate harvest opportunities and/or restrictions.
- D.6.** (This subsection of the GMP does not apply to spectacled or Steller's eiders).
- D.7.** (This subsection of the GMP does not apply to spectacled or Steller's eiders).
- D.8.** No hunting of spectacled eiders or Steller's eiders, or taking of their eggs, is allowed at any time.

E. COMMUNICATIONS

- E.1.** The USFWS, ADFG, the Association, and the Committee, will work together through an information and education task force to cooperatively develop and implement a comprehensive program to educate all affected parties about conservation of spectacled eiders and Steller's eiders.

The number of spectacled eiders nesting on the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta has declined from an estimated 47,000 pairs in the early 1970s to about 3,000 pairs since 1989. Because the current population is so small, even a limited harvest of spectacled eiders is an obstacle to recovery. All interested parties will work

cooperatively to educate local people about why spectacled eiders and Steller's eiders should not be hunted.

The USFWS and ADFG will continue to conduct non-toxic shot training clinics in villages on the Delta to provide information to hunters about the use of non-toxic shot, and the problems with lead poisoning.

- E.2.** Requests from outside observers to visit Native owned lands on the Delta to make observations or prepare articles on activities related to the plan shall be referred to the Committee. The Committee will review such requests and forward them to the villages that control the land along with a recommendation as to whether the visit should be approved. The village will have final say on approval.

F. MONITORING, VERIFICATION, AND ENFORCEMENT

The following procedures have been developed for monitoring, verifying, and enforcing compliance with Sections A.4, A.8, and D.4 of this plan.

- F.1.** Information and Education. The parties to the plan will cooperate closely in designing and implementing an intensive joint information and education program. A major purpose of this program is to explain the Eider Management Plan and the need for compliance with it to residents of the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta.
- F.2.** **a.** Monitoring Compliance. Monitoring of the spring and summer season, especially in regard to spectacled and Steller's eiders and the use of nontoxic shot, will be a cooperative effort between the USFWS, the State of Alaska, the Committee, tribal governments, and residents of the Delta.
- b.** Reporting Incidents. Violations of the prohibitions on take of spectacled and Steller's eiders should be reported to the Refuge Manager, Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge, as soon as possible after they have been observed. The Refuge Manager will record the reported incidents on Incident Report Forms and will provide copies of Incident Reports to ADFG and the Association.
- F.3.** **a.** Verifying Occurrence of Violations. At the request of AVCP, representatives of the USFWS, ADFG, the Association, or the Committee will travel together and coordinate with tribal governments in investigating reports of violations as soon as possible after they are reported. In the event that no representatives of other parties to this plan are available, the USFWS and ADFG will contact the village government and investigate to the extent possible and report their findings to other participants as soon as possible.

- b. Summarizing Investigations of Incidents. Results of visits to villages will be summarized in writing and appended to original Incident Reports.
- c. Other Verification of Compliance. An additional method of verification will be through periodic village visits, conducted jointly by representatives of the USFWS, State of Alaska, Association, and Committee. The purpose of these trips will be to:
 - Evaluate the effectiveness of the cooperative information and education effort;
 - Provide support for implementation of the plan;
 - Evaluate compliance with the plan.

F.4. Enforcing the Harvest Prohibitions of This Plan. If compliance does not occur despite efforts described above, additional steps of enforcement will be necessary. The USFWS and the State of Alaska intend to confiscate any spectacled or Steller's eider and/or their eggs taken in flagrant¹ violation of the principles described in section A.4 and will collect all necessary information on the incident. The provisions supporting the use of nontoxic shot will be enforced. Although the USFWS and the State of Alaska are responsible for enforcement of regulations established under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, the parties to this plan will be informed of any steps taken regarding violations. The USFWS and the State of Alaska will consult with the Association, the Committee, or their designee, and the leader of the affected tribal government prior to issuing a citation for flagrant violations involving spectacled or Steller's eiders. The purpose of notifying the entities above is to insure future compliance with the Goose Management Plan. The USFWS and the State of Alaska intend to issue citations in a timely manner for violations under the following circumstances:

- Flagrant violations observed directly by USFWS or State of Alaska personnel;
- Reports from other parties of confirmed flagrant violations;
- Requests from tribal governments regarding confirmed, recurring non-compliance.

F.5. Annual Enforcement Activities. Monitoring camps will not be established on private lands without written permission of the landowner. Monitoring camps will be established on USFWS lands only after notification of the Association.

¹ Flagrant violations are those that demonstrate willful disregard for the provisions of this plan designed to protect spectacled and Steller's eiders. They include taking the birds during nesting, brood rearing, or flightless periods; and taking at other times in numbers and/or under circumstances that cannot be condoned on the basis of emergency or other special considerations.

violations of the plan have been reported and no other reasonable means of transportation are available to investigate the violations. The USFWS agrees by April 15 of each year to provide an outline to the Association of all proposed monitoring and enforcement activities associated with the plan.


- F.6. Use of Confiscated Spectacled or Steller's Eiders.** Confiscated spectacled or Steller's eiders taken in violation of the Eider Management Plan shall be returned to the local Traditional/IRA Council of the village near where the violation occurred, donated to the senior center in Bethel, retained when necessary for use as evidence, or used for research as part of a USFWS approved biological study. The confiscated birds that are returned to the village shall be given to a needy family and not returned to the hunter that was in violation.
- F.7. Summary Monitoring Report.** The USFWS, in cooperation with ADFG, the Association, and Committee, will compile a written summary report of all documented incidents, and any enforcement actions taken. This report will be provided to all parties of the plan.

Effective 2005 - 2006

We, the undersigned, hereby concur with and support the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Spectacled Eider and Steller's Eider Management Plan.

Concur: 
Myron Naneng, President
Association of Village Council Presidents
Chairman, Waterfowl Conservation Committee

10-27-05
Date

Concur: 
Rowan Gould, Director
Region 7
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

11/1/05
Date

Concur: _____
Leslie Holland-Bartels, Dep. Regional Director
Biological Resource Division
United States Geological Survey

Date

Concur: _____
McKie Campbell, Commissioner
Alaska Department of Fish and Game

Date