

Department of Fish and Game, and Native organizations within the subsistence eligible areas. Harvest survey data help ensure that customary and traditional use of migratory birds and their eggs for subsistence use by indigenous inhabitants of Alaska does not significantly increase the take of species of migratory birds relative to their continental population sizes.

We have monitored the subsistence harvest in Alaska for the past 14 years through the use of annual household surveys in the most heavily used subsistence harvest areas (e.g., Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta). Continuation of this monitoring would enable tracking of any significant changes or trends in levels of harvest and user participation after legalization of the harvest. The harvest survey method and forms that we used to collect information were not approved by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). We are initiating the process to request OMB approval of these forms through this publication and to request public comment on this information collection. We will not conduct or sponsor any surveys until we obtain OMB approval of this information collection.

This collection helped, and would help, us gather information on the annual subsistence harvests of 49 species of birds, including geese, ducks, swans, cranes, loons, seabirds, shorebirds, and upland game birds. The survey was, and would be, conducted by local village resident surveyors in the subsistence-eligible areas of Alaska, under the guidance of Service employees and contractors (such as native organizations and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game). The local village surveyors annually provided, and would provide, us lists of all households in each village. Randomly selected households then received, and would receive, survey forms from the village surveyor. The household either completed, and would complete, the form independently, or the village surveyor helped, and would help, the household complete the form. Forms were then, and would be, turned in to us. The resulting estimates of harvest per household were, and would be, combined with the complete list of households in the subsistence-eligible areas to provide estimates of the total annual harvest of the 49 species of birds.

We used, and would use, four forms to collect this information. They are described below.

Title: List of All Occupied Households, with Hunting Category Noted.

Approval Number: 1018-xxxx.

Form number: 7-FW-100.

Frequency of Collection: Once per year.

Description of Respondents: Local village surveyors.

Total Annual Responses: 188. We estimate one form for each of the 188 communities, which amounts to 188 forms annually.

Total Annual Burden Hours: 433 hours. We estimate the reporting burden at one minute for each of the total 26,000 households in 188 communities, or 433 hours total.

Note: This form is maintained by the local village surveyor. This form does not record, nor is it arranged or retrieved, by personal identifier.

Title: Households Separated by Hunting Category.

Approval Number: 1018-xxxx.

Form number: 7-FW-101.

Frequency of Collection: Once per year.

Description of Respondents: Local village surveyors.

Total Annual Responses: 188. We estimate one form for each of the 188 communities, which amounts to 188 forms annually.

Total Annual Burden Hours: 94 hours. We estimate it takes each surveyor an average of one-half hour to transfer the information from Form 7-FW-100 to Form 7-FW-101. With an estimated 188 surveyors in up to 188 communities, we estimate 94 hours total annual burden.

Note: The local village surveyor provides this form to us. This form does not record, nor is it arranged or retrieved, by personal identifier.

Title: Permission Slip for Participation in the Survey.

Approval Number: 1018-xxxx.

Form number: 7-FW-102.

Frequency of Collection: Once per year.

Description of Respondents: Households within the subsistence eligible areas of Alaska (Alaska Peninsula, Kodiak Archipelago, the Aleutian Islands, or in areas north and west of the Alaska Range (50 CFR part 92.5)).

Total Annual Responses: 16,000. We estimate up to 13,000 of the approximately 26,000 households in the subsistence eligible areas, will participate in the survey. Up to 16,000 households will have to be asked permission in order to get a sample size of 13,000 households.

Total Annual Burden Hours: 1,333 hours. It will take the surveyor an average of 5 minutes per household to determine whether or not that household agrees to participate in the

subsistence harvest survey. With an estimated 16,000 households responding to the permission slip, this amounts to 1,333 hours total annual burden.

Note: This form is maintained by the local village surveyor. The surveyor asks each household if that household will participate in the subsistence harvest survey. The surveyor then notes a "yes" or a "no" on a permission slip. Each household with a "yes" permission slip is given a survey form (described below). This form does not record, nor is it arranged or retrieved, by personal identifier.

Title: Migratory Bird Subsistence Harvest Household Survey.

Approval Number: 1018-xxxx.

Form number: 7-FW-103.

Frequency of Collection: Three times per year—spring, summer, and fall.

Description of Respondents: Households within the subsistence eligible areas of Alaska (Alaska Peninsula, Kodiak Archipelago, the Aleutian Islands, or in areas north and west of the Alaska Range (50 CFR part 92.5)).

Total Annual Responses: 13,000. We estimate up to 13,000 of the approximately 26,000 households in the subsistence eligible areas will participate in the survey.

Total Annual Burden Hours: 3,250 hours. We estimate the reporting burden to average 5 minutes per respondent for the Migratory Bird Subsistence Harvest Household Survey. With an estimated 13,000 respondents filling out the form three times annually, the annual burden hours total 3,250 hours.

Note: The local village surveyor provides completed survey forms to us. The survey form consists of three pages, one page each for spring, summer, and fall. Each page has 51 bird illustrations, with spaces beside each illustration to mark down numbers of birds and eggs taken. This form does not record, nor is it arranged or retrieved, by personal identifier; the household number is written on each page of the survey form, along with a village number. The results of this annual survey help us understand the effect of subsistence hunting on migratory bird populations, while also evaluating the effects of newly established spring/summer season dates, species closures, and methods and means prohibitions.

We invite comments on this proposed information collection on the following: (1) Whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the function of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility; (2) the accuracy of our estimate of the burden of the collection of information; (3) ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be