



Historic plans will allow harvest of Emperor Geese for first time in 30 years

Subsistence Harvest Season for Spring/Summer 2017

We have exciting news to share regarding Emperor Geese. In August 2016, a historical moment took place with the signing of the Alaska Migratory Bird Co-Management Council's (AMBCC) proposed Emperor Goose Management plan. These plans were approved by the Pacific Flyaway Council and the Service Regulations Committee. After no-hunting conservation measures were placed in 1987, emperor geese populations increased which allowed the emperor geese proposals to move forward through the AMBCC process. AMBCC agreed to adopt the Emperor Goose Management Plan for an initial three-year trial period from 2017- 2019 to carefully evaluate population responses to harvest. This has been a long thirty years of not harvesting emperor geese and the council would like to thank the people of Alaska who have traditionally harvested emperor geese for their sacrifice over all these years. Many contributed their traditional ecological knowledge of the birds during monitoring and allowed for the self-renewal of emperor geese through generations. We want the subsistence harvest to be customary and traditional, reminding people to take only what we need to continue the conservation of the emperor goose. Please keep in mind emperor geese are Alaska's goose and they migrate within Alaska. They do not travel to the lower 48, and their food sources are limited. The gosling survival during the first year of life is low, and the females do not lay eggs every year. The emperor goose does not re-nest or replace eggs if they lose their original clutch, and emperor geese tend to stay together in family groups even when one bird is shot.

The proposed regulations for the 2017 Alaska Subsistence Spring/Summer Migratory Bird Harvest have been published in the federal register at: <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2017/02/10/2017-02688/migratory-bird-subsistence-harvest-in-alaska-during-the-2017-season> The document outlines the upcoming regulations and the emperor goose opening. The comment period ends **March 13, 2017.**



The Alaska Migratory Bird Co-Management Council (AMBCC) signs the emperor goose management plan for the spring and summer subsistence hunt.

Gayla Hoseth of BBNA is the Bristol Bay Regional Representative on AMBCC and also serves as the native caucus chair. She helped negotiate the management plans along with the other native regional representatives throughout the State and signed the proposed plan as rotating chair of AMBCC in 2016.

AMBCC was formed in 2000, consisting of US Fish and Wildlife Service, Alaska Department of Fish and Game and representatives of Alaska Native's people (including Bristol Bay, through BBNA.) AMBCC's primary purpose is to conserve migratory birds through development of recommendations for the subsistence spring/summer harvest in Alaska. Subsistence regulations were first published in 2003. AMBCC goes through a process annually to change subsistence migratory bird harvest regulations.

Subsistence Harvest Season (April 2 – August 31, 2017)

- NO bag limits – keep the hunt customary and traditional (only taking what we need)
- NO permits required
- Reporting done through the AMBCC Harvest Assessment Program

General Harvest Season for Fall/Winter 2017

At the January 2017 State of Alaska Board of Game meeting in Bethel, AK the AMBCC submitted an agenda change request proposal to allow for an emperor goose harvest for the fall/winter season with a limit of 1000 emperor geese to be taken during the fall/winter hunt. The board of game approved the proposal and this hunt will take place during the 2017 fall/winter season, which will be a highly regulated and will be through a permit system allowing 1000 birds to be taken, reports must be reported within 24-36 hours (based on geographical area) and only one bird is allowed per permit. Each region will have a limited number of birds allocated, and the hunt will close once the 1000 bird limit has been reached.

General (Fall/Winter) Season

- For this first year (2017), the General (fall/winter) hunt will be for residents only. Non-Residents can apply for a permit to harvest an emperor goose 2018 during the application period, which is in November of each year, for the following year. Non-Residents can apply this November to harvest an emperor goose in 2018. An unlimited number of permits will be issued, but only 1,000 birds can be harvested - Permits for the general (fall/winter) hunt will likely be available in late spring/early summer of this year, and logistics are being worked on how people will be able to access permits.

- The General hunt will be open fall 2017 in Units 23, 22, 18, 9, and 17 on September 1; in Units 8 and 10 on October 8, and in the Izembek SGR on October 16 – 31. The State will close each hunt area by Emergency Order when the bird quota is met for each area.
- In the Fall of 2018, 25 non-residents awarded a draw permit will also be able to participate in the general hunt in Units 8, 9, 17, and 10. The application period for the 2018 draw hunt will be in November/December 2017 (this is when all of ADFG draw hunts are offered including big game); the draw hunt winners will be announced the following February 2018.
- Bag limit of one bird per person
- Reporting requirement is either within 24 hours or 3 days based upon the geographic area.

Living in a State and Federal dual management area, sometimes it's hard to figure out what regulatory system we have to comply with and things can get confusing. Just remember to read your regulatory booklets to make sure you are abiding by the law for which season you are harvesting. Gayla is available to answer any questions regarding the regulatory processes at (907) 842-6252 or email ghoseth@bbna.com.

The Yaquillrit Kelutisti Council (or YKC, Bristol Bay's regional advisory council to the AMBCC) will be meeting sometime before April. Check out our Facebook Page and Website for updates.

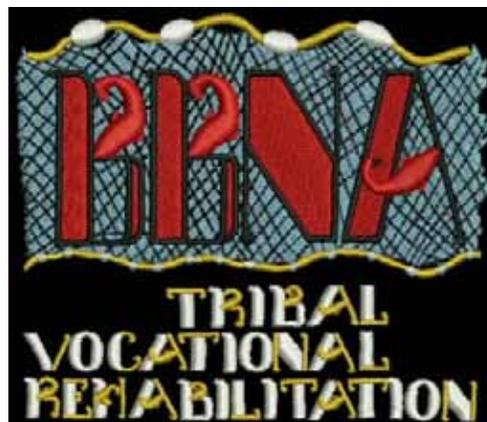
Good luck hunting and let's keep a healthy emperor goose population for future generations to enjoy the delicacy of the emperor goose.

Tribal Vocational Rehabilitation

Governor Walker appointed Gail Sorensen, BBNA TVR Program Manager to the State Vocational Rehabilitation Committee (SVRC) in the Tribal Vocational Rehabilitation Representative seat, representing the 10 Tribal Vocational Rehabilitation Programs throughout the State.

The SVRC is Governor-appointed volunteers from across Alaska who work with Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) to ensure quality services and provide input on implementing the Assistive Technology Act in Alaska.

Mission: The SVRC works with the DVR to help Alaskans with disabilities achieve quality employment outcomes.



Bristol Bay Partnership forms Drug and Opioid Task Force



A partnership made up of the Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation, Bristol Bay Economic Development Corporation, Bristol Bay Housing Authority, Bristol Bay Native Association, and Bristol Bay Native Corporation has formed the Bristol Bay Drug and Opioid Task Force to address the increasing presence of illicit drugs and drug use in Bristol Bay. The Task Force will work with health professionals, law enforcement, local community members and organizations to identify solutions and create a plan to address this ongoing issue.

The Task Force hosted an organizational meeting on Friday, February 10, 2017, in Dillingham and developed a mission and vision, as well as identified key committees and their focus areas. The vision is: Bristol Bay Communities coming together to end drug & opioid abuse. The mission is: To use a holistic approach empowering individuals, families and our communities to live a drug free, healthy lifestyle.

The following members of the Bristol Bay Partnership are leading the efforts of the Task Force: Tom Tilden of Curyung Tribal Council; Lucille Johnson of Bristol Bay Native Association; Emil Larson of Bristol Bay Area Housing Authority; Charlene Lopez of Bristol Bay Economic Development Corporation; Carol Wren of Bristol Bay Native Corporation and Dr. Mitchell Horan of the Bristol Bay Area Health Corporation.

The committees include Law, Education, Health, Community Awareness, Budget, and Organizational. The committees are to outline their goals and objectives and develop a working plan that can be reviewed and incorporated to the overall plan of the task force.

The Task Force aims to be inclusive and invites community members and organizations across Bristol Bay to participate in this region-wide task force. If you are interested in becoming involved, please contact Carol Wren at cwren@bbnc.net or (907)265-7868.

Regional Government Study with Tribes Documents Available Online

Two documents from the Regional Government Study with Tribes are available on BBNA's website: a financial analysis and results of the recent public opinion survey.

The survey revealed that residents' attitudes about borough formation varies widely, with about a third unsure if forming a borough or remaining incorporated is in their best interest. Residents were asked to rate public services in their community. The highest rated services were emergency medical services, community health clinics, and public schools. When asked about willingness to pay more taxes for additional services -- road improvements, fire protection, and emergency medical services garnered the highest responses.

BBNA secured funding for this project to further the *Bristol Bay Regional Vision*. That project,

which included extensive public input, revealed strong interest in regional cooperation to enhance infrastructure, economic opportunity, and education.

The year-long study has examined formation of a borough from several perspectives including: understanding the state-governed process and technical assistance; ways that Tribal Governments can be engaged to leverage local resources; financial implications; and public attitudes.

The Task Force (which includes representatives from the all cities, tribes, school districts, and regional organizations) will hold a final project meeting on March 17 to discuss next steps. The agenda also includes an inter-governmental consultation between Tribes and cities in the region.

BBNA contracted with McDowell Group to conduct research, coordinate Task Force meetings, and present study findings. For more information, contact Patty Heyano at (907) 842-6221 direct or email pheyano@bbna.com.

Forestry Program

In January, the BBNA Forestry Program hired Macaelin (Sonny) Flensburg as Forestry Supervisor. Six Forestry Technicians were also hired to help implement the Fuels Reduction Project. BBNA Forestry hosted a chainsaw and safety workshop at the UAF Bristol Bay Campus Applied Science Center January 19th and 20th. Chugachmiut Forester/Firefighter Robert Lacey taught the class.



Chainsaw and Safety Workshop at the UAF Bristol Bay Campus held in January.



Chainsaw and Safety Workshop participants training in the field.

Project Description: The Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project goal is to reduce the chance of wildland fire affecting native allotment and native allotment homes in the Bristol Bay area. The project will consist of felling or thinning trees to create a 100-foot firebreak surrounding the allotment and/or owner's home.

Justification: The Bristol Bay Native Association service area covers 1,762 certified Native allotment parcels. These parcels total 132,281.47 acres located throughout the Bristol Bay region of southwest Alaska. This forest and fire management plan has been prepared to serve as an initial assessment of forest resources on these Native allotments and to serve as a regional programmatic plan to direct forestry and fire management programs of BBNA as a recognized Bureau of Indian Affairs service provider.

Funding Source: BIA Forestry, Non-recurring BIA Forestry, Hazard Fuels Reduction, and Tribal Priority Allocation.

Tribal Resource Management goals in Bristol Bay Native Association

- ◆ Forest and Fire Management Plan
- ◆ Involve collaborative efforts with stakeholders to reduce risks to communities, restore and maintain healthy ecosystems, and protect our cultural and natural resources.
- ◆ Integrate fuels reduction with other natural resource program activities.
- ◆ Restore fire as a natural and managed process in fire dependent ecosystems.
- ◆ Develop and maintain a competent and skilled work force.
- ◆ Support biomass utilization and promote healthy economies.
- ◆ Incorporate fire monitoring to measure fire effects and assure desired conditions are met.

For more information contact Frank Woods, Forestry Program Manager at (907) 842-5257 or email fwoods@bbna.com.

Brownfield Update: Providing Public Comments and Upcoming Trainings

Recently CaSanderá has been working with the Natural Resources Director and the President/CEO on sending outreach to tribes and developing BBNA's input on a few public comment periods. The first public comment opportunity came from the Coast Guard, Environmental Protection Agency, & the State of Alaska seeking input on dispersant avoidance areas off the coast of Alaska. The multi-agencies requested information from the public regarding any critical habitat areas where the use of dispersant chemicals should be avoided. BBNA's public comments noted that there are many risks and benefits when using dispersants. Dispersants are beneficial from keeping oil spills from reaching coastal ecosystems. But for other oceanic life it may negatively affect bottomfish like cod, king crab, and others. BBNA suggested that responders take consideration of areas that the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council has designated Essential Fish Habitat that overlap within the preauthorization zone. BBNA also recommended more extensive testing of dispersants to fully understand effects of chemicals to ecosystems, contact experts of specific species to be more involved with the process, and to make available a log of when and what kind dispersants are used.

Other public comments were provided to Alaska's Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) where they sought public input for possible changes to petroleum cleanup levels. In the notice, DEC said that the cleanup levels haven't been updated in 17 years and based their levels on old scientific studies. BBNA supported updating these cleanup level methods. BBNA also stressed that having cleanup level procedures too stringent can increase the cost of doing environmental work, which is usually already expensive. Methods that are overly burdening may lead to contaminated properties never being addressed. We hope DEC will take that into consideration as new options for setting cleanup levels are determined.

Finally, the Brownfield Program is pleased to announce that dates have been set for Oil Spill Response Training and Qualified Soil and Water Sampler Training! Oil Spill Response Training will be the week of June 6th and Qualified Soil and Water Sampling Training will be week of May 1st. CaSanderá is still busy working with her partners on getting applications, agendas, and other details worked out for these trainings and will be sending out

information to tribes when all information is finalized. Like always, if you have questions or concerns about a contaminated site in your community, questions about the Brownfield program, or would like to know more about the spring trainings, please contact CaSanderá Johnson, Tribal Environmental Response Program Coordinator, by phone at (907)842-5257 or email cjohnson@bbna.com.

VPSO Program

Four of the seven funded VPSO positions are filled in our region. Recruitment is open for the three (3) vacant positions and will be filled on a first come first served basis from eight(8) potential duty stations: Aleknagik, Chignik Bay, Clarks Point, Egegik, Ekwok, Iliamna/Newhalen, New Stuyahok, and Port Heiden. For information on the VPSO program and how to apply to become a VPSO go to the BBNA website <http://www.bbna.com/bbna-employment/>, the Department of Public Safety website <http://dps.alaska.gov/ast/vps0/about.aspx>, or contact Carla Akelkok, VPSO Program Manager: call toll-free 1-800-478-5257 or direct (907)842-6135, or email cakelkok@bbna.com.

The VPSO Program utilized USDOJ COPS Hiring and Equipment/Training Grant funds to conduct, in coordination with DPS/AST, the VPSO Annual Training in Dillingham on December 5-7, 2016. The training session was a great success with VPSOs completing a DPS ARMS electronic reporting refresher course and earning their Boating Safety and Tazer Training certificates. Our thanks goes out to the Aleutian/Pribilof Islands Association VPSO Program for allowing their VPSO Trainer, Barratt Taylor, to conduct the Boating Safety and Tazer Training and to the Alaska State Troopers for providing the ARMS refresher. We were pleased to have the ability to further promote community safety by sharing the training opportunity with other law enforcement agency officers. The Dillingham Police Department was able to send three Police Officers to participate in the Boating Safety Training.

Another training workshop will be conducted by Calibre Press in March 2017 at the Aleutian Pribilof Island Association 1st Floor board room in Anchorage. The Anchorage training participants will include BBNA VPSOs, VPSOs from four of the ten other non-profit VPSO programs in the State of Alaska and possibly other law enforcement officers, up to a total of 150 participants. The topics will include a 2-day Street Survival course, 1-day Re-fresher CPR/First Aide course, and a 4-day Reid Training course.

Nushagak Peninsula Caribou hunt open through March 31, 2017

Traditionally the Nushagak Peninsula Caribou hunting season is designated for the following villages of Togiak, Twin Hills, Manokotak, Aleknagik, Dillingham, Clarks Point and Ekuak. However, the Nushagak Peninsula Caribou Herd has been growing rapidly for several years, and harvest has been below average during this time. As a result, the population size exceeds established management objectives and managers are concerned about habitat damage. The Federal Subsistence Board approved a Temporary Special Action WSA-02 in June 2016 lifting the closure of federal lands. Therefore, the season is **open to the residents residing in units 17, 9B, Lime Village and Stony River until March 31, 2017.**

This will be in effect for this hunting season only.



The bag limit is 5 caribou and same day airborne is allowed. Permits are available at the following village councils Togiak, Twin Hills, Manokotak, Aleknagik, Dillingham, Clarks Point and Ekuak. Successful hunters must return their harvest reports to the Togiak

Prisoner Reentry Project

The BBNA Prisoner Reentry Project is in the process of finalizing a strategic plan to provide services and support methods that are culturally sensitive to Alaska Native individuals returning to the Bristol Bay region from prison with the goals of improving public safety and reducing recidivism with the help of the Prisoner Reentry Task Force. The Prisoner Reentry Task Force is a team of people comprised of various regional service agencies, state, tribal representatives and former prisoners who are dedicated to reducing recidivism in the Bristol Bay region by providing recommendations to ensure a sound strategic plan for reentry services is developed. The last Prisoner Reentry Task Force meeting was on December 19, 2016. The Prisoner Reentry Task Force continues



National Wildlife Refuge or call 1-800-817-2538, **within 5 days** after taking a caribou or within 15 days after the close of the season if unsuccessful or did not hunt.

Don't forget that if you are a Federally qualified subsistence user (recipient) you may designate another Federally qualified subsistence user (designated hunter) to take caribou on your behalf for this hunt. Designated hunters may hunt for any number of recipients, but have no more than two harvest limits in possession at one time. Any designated hunter taking wildlife on behalf of another Federally qualified resident shall deliver the wildlife promptly to that Federally qualified resident. Requirement: the designated hunter must get a designated hunter permit and return a completed harvest report. Designated hunters may not charge the recipient for their services, nor claim the meat or any part of the harvested wildlife for themselves.

Be safe and happy hunting! Post your pictures of hunting on our new NRD Facebook page at www.Facebook.com/BBNANaturalResources.

the collaboration of ideas of how this Reentry Program will work in the Bristol Bay Region. The next Prisoner Reentry Task Force meeting will be on April 11, 2017 at the BBNA main office in Dillingham in the boardroom.

The U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance CTAS grant funded the strategic planning which will end September 30, 2017. BBNA has submitted grant applications for Prisoner Reentry Program implementation funding.

If anyone would like more information about the BBNA Prisoner Reentry Program, please contact Gwen Larson, Prisoner Reentry Program Manager or Annie Golia, Prisoner Reentry Program Assistant at (907)842-5257 or toll-free at 1-800-478-5257.

Cold Bristol Bay Winters lead to Abundant Watery Wildlife in Spring and Summer



This winter we had a lot of snow. And that is good for more than just snowmachining, hunting for caribou, skiing or any other favorite land-based winter activities. Winter is also good for marine life in Bristol Bay. Our region is famous for having the largest sockeye salmon run on the planet during the summer months. But the abundance of our water-based wildlife is also due to the cold, dark winter months. Many of the species that we depend on for subsistence, commercial income and our way of life depends on snow and sea-ice to survive and to thrive. Natural Resources Department staff were reminded of this dynamic after attending conferences and meetings this winter related to our furry, scaly and slimy marine friends.

At the **Alaska Marine Science Symposium** in January, we heard how ice melt in the Bering Sea and in Bristol Bay's lakes during the spring months lead to huge blooms of plankton that feed fish. Those fish in turn feed animals higher in the food web, such as seals and other marine mammals. At the **Ocean Acidification Workshop** in November, we learned how abundance of plankton is directly correlated to changes in surface ice, which ultimately impacts the chemistry of the ocean and freshwater systems. At the **Bristol Bay Native Corporation Leadership Forum** in December, Terry Johnson with the Alaska Sea Grant Marine Advisory Program gave an outlook for how different species can be affected by differing variations of weather and climate changes. For example, sockeye that stay up to a year in Bristol

Bay's lakes could benefit from warmer freshwater trends due to larger plankton blooms. But other marine species like crab can be harmed by increased temperatures and lower pH levels due to higher acidity at the ocean bottom. A **US Fish and Wildlife (FWS) Tribal Consultation** in January discussed the potential endangered listing of Pacific Walrus. FWS staff told participating Bristol Bay tribal leaders how decreased sea-ice can cause stress and changes in walrus migration patterns throughout the Bering Sea and Arctic Ocean. At the **Alaska Forum on the Environment** in February, a few of our partners from different government agencies and the Western Alaska Landscape Conservation Cooperative presented a poster on marine life interactions and climate change. Find it on our BBNA Natural Resources website.

Not everyone likes snow in their boots, getting your car stuck during a blizzard or having to shovel. If that's you, just remember why the frigid air is important the next time you enjoy those fish strips, seal oil or muktuk—and that summer is around the corner!

Upcoming Natural Resources-related Events

Mar. 7-8: Southwest Interagency Meeting (SWIM) - Dillingham

Mar. 16-17: Indigenous People's Council for Marine Mammals (IPCoMM) Board of Directors Spring Meeting - Anchorage

Mar. 19-23: Alaska Chapter of the American Fisheries Society and American Water Resources Association Alaska Section - Fairbanks

Mar. 20-23: Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation Tier 3 Designation (Outstanding National Resource Waters) Public Workshops - Juneau, Anchorage, Fairbanks and on Statewide Teleconference

Apr. 3-6: Alaska Migratory Bird Co-Management Council meeting (AMBCC) - Anchorage

Apr. 3-12: North Pacific Fisheries Management Council meeting (NPFMC) - Anchorage

Apr. 26-29: Western Alaska Interdisciplinary Science Conference (WAISC) - Unalaska

May 1-4: 2017 National Tribal Forum on Air Quality (NTFAQ) - Tucson, AZ

Week of May 1: Qualified Soil and Water Sampling Training (BBNA Brownfields program)

Week of May 15: Surface Water Quality & Stream Temperature Recertification Training

Week of June 6: Oil Spill Response Training (BBNA Brownfields Program)

We share this and related information on our Facebook page. Like us at www.facebook.com/BBNANaturalResources to see posts related to our rich natural resources in Bristol Bay!



Bristol Bay Native Association
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Dillingham, Alaska 99576

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Bristol Bay Calendar Events

Event/Location	Date	Contact Information
BBNA Full Board Meeting Location: Dillingham	March 21-23, 2017	BBNA (907)842-5257 or (800)478-5257 Ask for DeeDee Bennis
BBNA Executive Committee Meeting Location: Dillingham	April 28, 2017	BBNA (907)842-5257 or (800)478-5257 Ask for DeeDee Bennis
BBNA Presidents & Administrators Workshop Location: Dillingham	May 9-11, 2017	BBNA (907)842-5257 or (800)478-5257 Ask for Bonnie Kropoff

To see more community events go to BBNA's interactive Community Calendar at www.brownbearsw.com/cal/bristolbay

The Mission of BBNA is to maintain and promote a strong regional organization supported by the Tribes of Bristol Bay to serve as a unified voice to provide social, economic, cultural, educational opportunities and initiatives to benefit the Tribes and the Native people of Bristol Bay.

BBNA Contact Information

BBNA Main Office

1500 Kanakanak Road
P.O. Box 310
Dillingham, Alaska 99576
Phone: (907)842-5257
Toll Free: (800)478-5257
Fax: (907)842-5932

Family Resource Center / Head Start

1500 Kanakanak Road
P.O. Box 310
Dillingham, Alaska 99576
Phone: (907)842-4059
Toll Free: (800)478-4059
Fax: (907)842-2338

BBNA Workforce Development

1500 Kanakanak Road
P.O. Box 310
Dillingham, Alaska 99576
Phone: (907)842-2262
Toll Free: (888)285-2262
Fax: (907)842-3498

To find out more information about BBNA, go to our website www.bbna.com