Alaska Migratory Bird Co-Management Council
1011 E. Tudor Rd, MS 201
Anchorage, AK 99507
Toll-Free 1-877-229-2344

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Doug Alcorn 907-786-3545
Toll-free 1-877-229-2344

OPEN SEASON EXTENDED FOR 2004 MIGRATORY BIRD SUBSISTENCE HARVEST PROPOSALS & EXCLUSION PETITIONS

Proposals to change migratory bird subsistence harvest regulations for the 2004 spring/summer season will now be accepted until April 30 at the above address. Forms are available by calling the toll-free number above or emailing **william_ostrand@fws.gov**.

On February 10, 2003, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service published in the Federal Register a Proposed Rule which formally recognizes and regulates a 2003 Alaska Spring/Summer Migratory Bird Subsistence Harvest. The Rule, a product of the Alaska Migratory Bird Co-Management Council (Council), sets dates between which such harvesting could occur, lists species that are open/closed for harvest, describes means and methods of take that would be prohibited, and details areas of the state where residents are eligible to participate. The 2003 subsistence harvest will be open to all residents living north and west of the Alaska Range, Bristol Bay, the Alaska Peninsula, the Kodiak Archipelago and the Aleutian/Pribilof Islands. To learn more about the proposed 2003 regulations go to: http://alaska.fws.gov/media/ambcc.html

Petitions will also be accepted until March 14, 2003 to request a change in "excluded/ included" community status to be effective for the 2004 harvest season. Petitions will still be accepted after this date; however, they will not be considered by the Council until the next regulatory cycle. A detailed description of the process for community petitioning is also available from our office.

All petitions for inclusion/exclusion of communities received by March 14, 2003 will be reviewed and acted by the Council at their April 17-18, 2003 meeting in Anchorage. All proposals to change 2004 harvest regulations received by April 30, 2003 will be reviewed and acted on by the Council at their May 15-16, 2003 meeting in Anchorage.