

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**Fish and Wildlife Service**

[FWS–R7–MB–2023–N079;
FXMB1261070000–234–FF07M01000; OMB
Control Number 1018–0178]

**Agency Information Collection
Activities; Submission to the Office of
Management and Budget; Regulations
for the Taking of Migratory Birds for
Subsistence Uses in Alaska**

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service,
Interior.

ACTION: Notice of information collection;
request for comment.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the
Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, we,
the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
(Service), are proposing to renew,
without change, an information
collection.

DATES: Interested persons are invited to
submit comments on or before
November 20, 2023.

ADDRESSES: Written comments and
recommendations for the proposed
information collection should be
submitted within 30 days of publication
of this notice at [https://
www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain](https://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain).
Find this particular information
collection by selecting “Currently under
Review—Open for Public Comments” or
by using the search function. Please
provide a copy of your comments to the
Service Information Collection
Clearance Officer, U.S. Fish and
Wildlife Service, MS: PRB (JAO/3W),
5275 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA
22041–3803 (mail); or by email to Info_Coll@fws.gov. Please reference “1018–
0178” in the subject line of your
comments.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: To
request additional information about
this ICR, contact Madonna L. Baucum,
Service Information Collection
Clearance Officer, by email at Info_Coll@fws.gov, or by telephone at (703)
358–2503. Individuals in the United
States who are deaf, deafblind, hard of
hearing, or have a speech disability may
dial 711 (TTY, TDD, or TeleBraille) to
access telecommunications relay
services. Individuals outside the United
States should use the relay services
offered within their country to make
international calls to the point-of-
contact in the United States.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In
accordance with the Paperwork
Reduction Act of 1995 and 5 CFR
1320.8(d)(1), we provide the general
public and other Federal agencies with
an opportunity to comment on new,

proposed, revised, and continuing
collections of information. This helps us
assess the impact of our information
collection requirements and minimize
the public’s reporting burden. It also
helps the public understand our
information collection requirements and
provide the requested data in the
desired format.

On June 26, 2023, we published in the
Federal Register (88 FR 41410) a notice
of our intent to request that OMB
approve this information collection. In
that notice, we solicited comments for
60 days, ending on August 25, 2023. In
an effort to increase public awareness
of, and participation in, our public
commenting processes associated with
information collection requests, the
Service also published the **Federal
Register** notice on [Regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov)
(Docket No. FWS–R7–MB–2023–0082)
to provide the public with an additional
method to submit comments (in
addition to the typical [Info_Coll@
fws.gov](mailto:Info_Coll@fws.gov) email and U.S. mail submission
methods). We received one comment in
response to that notice which did not
address the information collection
requirements. No response to that
comment is required.

As part of our continuing effort to
reduce paperwork and respondent
burdens, we are again soliciting
comments from the public and other
Federal agencies on the proposed ICR
that is described below. We are
especially interested in public comment
addressing the following:

- (1) Whether or not the collection of
information is necessary for the proper
performance of the functions of the
agency, including whether or not the
information will have practical utility;
- (2) The accuracy of our estimate of the
burden for this collection of
information, including the validity of
the methodology and assumptions used;
- (3) Ways to enhance the quality,
utility, and clarity of the information to
be collected; and
- (4) How might the agency minimize
the burden of the collection of
information on those who are to
respond, including through the use of
appropriate automated, electronic,
mechanical, or other technological
collection techniques or other forms of
information technology, e.g., permitting
electronic submission of response.

Comments that you submit in
response to this notice are a matter of
public record. Before including your
address, phone number, email address,
or other personal identifying
information in your comment, you
should be aware that your entire
comment—including your personal
identifying information—may be

publicly available at any time. While
you can ask us in your comment to
withhold your personal identifying
information from public review, we
cannot guarantee that we will be able to
do so.

Abstract: The Migratory Bird Treaty
Act of 1918 (16 U.S.C. 703–712) and the
Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 (16 U.S.C.
742d) designate the Department of the
Interior as the key agency responsible
for managing migratory bird populations
that frequent the United States and for
setting harvest regulations that allow for
the conservation of those populations.
These responsibilities include gathering
data on various aspects of migratory
bird harvest. We use harvest data to
review regulation proposals and to issue
harvest regulations.

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act
Protocol Amendment (1995)
(Amendment) provides for the
customary and traditional use of
migratory birds and their eggs for
subsistence use by Indigenous
inhabitants of Alaska. The Amendment
states that its intent is not to cause
significant increases in the take of
species of migratory birds relative to
their continental population sizes. A
submittal letter from the Department of
State to the White House (May 20, 1996)
accompanied the Amendment and
specified the need for harvest
monitoring. The submittal letter stated
that the Service, the Alaska Department
of Fish and Game (ADF&G), and Alaska
Native Organizations would collect
harvest information cooperatively
within the subsistence-eligible areas.
Harvest data help to ensure that
customary and traditional subsistence
uses of migratory birds and their eggs by
Indigenous inhabitants of Alaska do not
significantly increase the take of species
of migratory birds relative to their
continental population sizes.

Information collection currently
authorized under the OMB approval
number 1018–0178 includes three items
related to the spring-summer
subsistence harvest of migratory birds in
Alaska: (1) invitation of residents of
non-eligible regions to participate in
harvesting activities in the eligible
regions; (2) household registration
permit for harvest in the Cordova area;
and (3) hunter registration permit for
harvest in the Kodiak Island Rooded
Area. Harvest monitoring associated
with the Cordova and Kodiak permits
are authorized under a separate OMB
control number (1018–0124).

1. Invitation to Harvest:

- **Tribal Council Invitation Letter—**
Regulations at 50 CFR 92.5(d) allow
immediate family members (children,
parents, grandparents, and siblings

living in excluded areas) of residents of eligible areas to participate in the spring-summer subsistence harvest of migratory birds in a village's subsistence area. The regulations specify that participation of residents of excluded areas in the spring-summer harvest of migratory birds in an eligible area must be pre-authorized by a letter of invitation issued by a local Tribal council within the harvest area.

- *Tribal Council Invitation Permit Request*—The permit request is another method to invite an immediate family member residing in an excluded area to participate in the spring-summer subsistence hunt in a defined eligible area. The permit, issued by the Tribal Council, certifies that the prospective hunter is an immediate family member as defined in 50 CFR 92.4 and is thereby authorized to assist family members in hunting migratory birds in a defined subsistence harvest area. The permit is valid for 2 years from the date of issuance.

- *Tribal Council Notification to Alaska Migratory Bird Co-Management Council (AMBCC)*—Tribal councils will provide copies of all letters of invitation regarding the invitation to hunt and of all issued permits to the Executive Director of the AMBCC.

- *AMBCC Notification to AK Region Office of Law Enforcement*—Upon receiving copies of the letters of invitation and of issued permits from Tribal Councils, the AMBCC Executive Director will inform the Service's Alaska Regional Office of Law Enforcement (AK-OLE) within 2 business days.

2. *Cordova Harvest Household Registration Permit*—The Service's final rule published on April 8, 2014 (79 FR 19454), authorized spring-summer harvest of migratory birds by residents of the community of Cordova in the Gulf of Alaska region. In 2017, the regulations were updated to allow residents of the neighboring communities of Tatitlek and Chenega to harvest in the area defined for the Cordova harvest (April 4, 2017; 82 FR 16298). Local partners, including the Eyak Tribe and the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) Cordova Office's Chugach Subsistence Program, worked in close collaboration with the ADF&G Division of Subsistence to develop a household registration and harvest monitoring system using a post-season mail survey. Household registrations are issued by the Tribal Councils of the communities of Cordova, Tatitlek, and Chenega, as well as by the USFS Cordova Office's Chugach Subsistence Program. The registration form includes fields to write

the permit holder's name and mailing address, as well as a field for the permit holder to sign acknowledging the terms of the permit. The permit also has fields to write the names of other household members authorized to harvest under the registration. Registration data are securely disposed of after completion of the annual harvest data collection and analysis.

3. *Kodiak Island Roded Area Hunter Registration Permit*—On April 19, 2021, we issued a final rule (86 FR 20311) that allows migratory bird hunting and egg gathering by registration permit in the Kodiak Island Roded Area in the Kodiak Archipelago Region of Alaska for a 3-year experimental season (2021–2023), after which time the regulation will sunset. The rule also finalized regulations for the spring-summer subsistence harvest of migratory birds in the Kodiak Island Roded Area under a co-management process involving the Service, the ADF&G, and Alaska Native representatives. These regulations include a permit and harvest reporting system developed in collaboration with the AMBCC local partner, the Sun'aq Tribe of Kodiak. The intent of this rule was to allow all residents of the Kodiak Archipelago Region the opportunity to participate in subsistence hunting activities without the need for a watercraft. Previous regulations closed the Roded Area to all subsistence migratory bird hunting and egg gathering, but allowed these activities in adjacent marine waters beyond 500 feet from shore, including offshore islands, where access requires a watercraft. The mandatory registration permit and the mandatory reporting of hunter activity and harvest in the 2021–2023 experimental hunt will allow estimation of hunter participation, bird and egg harvest, and harvest composition. These data will inform a potential proposal and decision to reopen the Roded Area to subsistence hunting in the future. To protect species of conservation concern, spring-summer subsistence hunting and egg gathering for Arctic terns, Aleutian terns, mew gulls, and emperor geese will remain closed in the Roded Area.

Results of harvest monitoring for the 3-year experimental season are expected to be available in fall 2023 for review by the Sun'aq Tribe and other members of the AMBCC, who will make a recommendation on whether to continue the Kodiak Island Roded Area hunt and whether to continue the requirement for the hunter registration permit and harvest reporting. Based on such forthcoming recommendation, corresponding changes to harvest regulations, if approved, could be

implemented for the 2025 Alaska spring-summer migratory bird subsistence harvest season.

Enforcement of regulations for the Kodiak Island Roded Area will be the responsibility of the Service's Office of Law Enforcement. Enforcement personnel are aware of cultural and traditional practices of migratory bird subsistence harvest by rural residents of Alaska who are eligible to participate for this permit hunt concurrent with the need to ensure conservation of migratory birds, particularly species of conservation concern; of the necessary adherence to specific regulations requiring a permit and mandatory harvest reporting; and that hunting and egg gathering of Arctic terns, Aleutian terns, mew gulls, and emperor geese will remain closed in the Kodiak Island Roded Area.

The Sun'aq Tribe of Kodiak worked in close collaboration with the ADF&G Division of Subsistence to develop a permit and harvest monitoring system. Permits are issued by the Sun'aq Tribe of Kodiak to individual harvesters. The Sun'aq Tribe provides copies of issued permits to the ADF&G Division of Subsistence, which uses this information to manage the harvest reporting system. The permit includes fields to write the permit holder's name and mailing address, as well as a field for the permit holder to sign acknowledging the terms of the permit. The permit also includes a map of the harvest area and description of the harvest regulations, including the list of species open to harvest. Permit data are securely disposed of after completion of the annual harvest data collection and analysis.

You may request copies of the referenced permit applications by submitting a request to the Service Information Collection Clearance Officer using one of the methods identified in the **ADDRESSES** section of this notice.

Title of Collection: Regulations for the Taking of Migratory Birds for Subsistence Uses in Alaska, 50 CFR part 92.

OMB Control Number: 1018–0178.

Form Number: None.

Type of Review: Extension of a currently approved collection.

Respondents/Affected Public: Individuals/households and Tribal governments within subsistence-eligible areas of Alaska.

Respondent's Obligation: Required to obtain or retain a benefit.

Frequency of Collection: Annually.

Total Estimated Annual Nonhour Burden Cost: None.

| Activity/respondents | Average number of annual respondents | Average number of submissions each | Average number of annual responses | Completion time per response (min) | Total annual burden hours * |
|---|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <i>Tribal Council Invitation Letter (50 CFR 92.5):</i> | | | | | |
| Tribal Governments | 1 | 1 | 1 | 30 | 1 |
| <i>Tribal Council Invitation Permit Request (50 CFR 92.5):</i> | | | | | |
| Tribal Governments | 1 | 1 | 1 | 30 | 1 |
| <i>Tribal Council Notification to AMBCC (50 CFR 92.5):</i> | | | | | |
| Tribal Governments | 1 | 1 | 1 | 30 | 1 |
| <i>Kodiak Island Roaded Area Hunter Registration Permit (50 CFR 92.31):</i> | | | | | |
| Individuals | 100 | 1 | 100 | 15 | 25 |
| <i>Cordova Household Registration Permit (50 CFR 92.31):</i> | | | | | |
| Individuals | 50 | 1 | 50 | 15 | 13 |
| Totals | 154 | | 154 | | 42 |

* Rounded.

An agency may not conduct or sponsor and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

The authority for this action is the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.*).

Madonna Baucum,

Information Collection Clearance Officer, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

[FR Doc. 2023–23029 Filed 10–18–23; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4333–15–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

[FWS–R7–MB–2023–N083; FXMB12610700000–234–FF07M01000; OMB Control Number 1018–0124]

Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission to the Office of Management and Budget; Alaska Subsistence Bird Harvest Survey

AGENCY: Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of information collection; request for comment.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, we, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), are proposing to renew, without change, a currently approved information collection.

DATES: Interested persons are invited to submit comments on or before November 20, 2023.

ADDRESSES: Written comments and recommendations for the proposed information collection should be submitted within 30 days of publication of this notice at <https://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/PRAMain>. Find this particular information collection by selecting “Currently under

Review—Open for Public Comments” or by using the search function. Please provide a copy of your comments to the Service Information Collection Clearance Officer, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, MS: PRB (JAO/3W), 5275 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA 22041–3803 (mail); or by email to Info_Coll@fws.gov. Please reference “1018–0124” in the subject line of your comments.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: To request additional information about this ICR, contact Madonna L. Baucum, Service Information Collection Clearance Officer, by email at Info_Coll@fws.gov, or by telephone at (703) 358–2503. Individuals in the United States who are deaf, deafblind, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability may dial 711 (TTY, TDD, or TeleBraille) to access telecommunications relay services. Individuals outside the United States should use the relay services offered within their country to make international calls to the point-of-contact in the United States.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 and 5 CFR 1320.8(d)(1), we provide the general public and other Federal agencies with an opportunity to comment on new, proposed, revised, and continuing collections of information. This helps us assess the impact of our information collection requirements and minimize the public’s reporting burden. It also helps the public understand our information collection requirements and provide the requested data in the desired format.

On June 26, 2023, we published in the **Federal Register** (88 FR 41415) a notice of our intent to request that OMB approve this information collection. In that notice, we solicited comments for 60 days, ending on August 25, 2023. In an effort to increase public awareness

of, and participation in, our public commenting processes associated with information collection requests, the Service also published the **Federal Register** notice on [Regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov) (Docket No. FWS–R7–MB–2023–0081) to provide the public with an additional method to submit comments (in addition to the typical Info_Coll@fws.gov email and U.S. mail submission methods). We received one comment in response to that notice which did not address the information collection requirements. No response to that comment is required.

As part of our continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burdens, we are again soliciting comments from the public and other Federal agencies on the proposed ICR that is described below. We are especially interested in public comment addressing the following:

- (1) Whether or not the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether or not the information will have practical utility;
- (2) The accuracy of our estimate of the burden for this collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;
- (3) Ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and
- (4) How might the agency minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, *e.g.*, permitting electronic submission of response.

Comments that you submit in response to this notice are a matter of public record. Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying