



AMBCC Migratory Birds Subsistence Harvest Survey

**Federal OMB Approval Renewal 2015-2016
Public Outreach to Assess Relevance of Survey Methods and Survey Burden**

Name: James Fall Date: 1/5/2015

1. Is the information collected by the AMBCC subsistence harvest survey necessary and does the information has practical utility?

Yes. Harvest data are essential for management of migratory bird populations.

2. Does it still take the surveyor on average 5 minutes per household to determine whether or not that household agrees to participate in the survey?

Yes.

3. Does its still take the household member on average 5 minutes to fill out a seasonal sheet of the AMBCC subsistence harvest survey?

Yes.

4. Do you have suggestions to improve the quality, utility, and clarity of the information collected?

No. A formal review of the program is underway.

5. Do you have suggestions on ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents?

No. The minimum information needed for good harvest estimates is covered on the survey.



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Name: Dan Rosenberg

Date: Nov. 4, 2015

1. Is the information collected by the AMBCC subsistence harvest survey necessary and does the information has practical utility? *Yes, harvest assessment is a critical component of population management and necessary for regulation setting.*

2. Does it still take the surveyor on average 5 minutes per household to determine whether or not that household agrees to participate in the survey? *Yes, this is a reasonable estimate.*

3. Does its still take the household member on average 5 minutes to fill out a seasonal sheet of the AMBCC subsistence harvest survey? *Yes, this is also a reasonable estimate.*

4. Do you have suggestions to improve the quality, utility, and clarity of the information collected? A harvest survey review has recently been conducted and the results of that collective Alaska Migratory Bird Comanagment Council and University effort will provide suggestions.

5. Do you have suggestions on ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents? This has also been discussed during the harvest survey review process and several options have been presented and are being discussed. These include fewer surveys, fewer species of interest, fewer households sampled etc.



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Name: _____ David Otis _____ Date: __11/11/15

1. Is the information collected by the AMBCC subsistence harvest survey necessary and does the information has practical utility?

Yes. It is an important component of the federal migratory bird management and conservation program, and provides documentation of the importance of this resource to native Alaskans.

2. Does it still take the surveyor on average 5 minutes per household to determine whether or not that household agrees to participate in the survey?

I do not have first hand knowledge of this process, but I would assume that asking a few simple yes/no questions of the household representative takes very little time.

3. Does its still take the household member on average 5 minutes to fill out a seasonal sheet of the AMBCC subsistence harvest survey?

Again, I have no first hand knowledge of this process for this particular survey, but based on my experience, there is a significant amount of variation among respondents in the amount of time they devote to monitoring their harvest during a given season and then actually filling out the data form. Filling out the form itself should take very little time, but the effort spent on tracking their harvest during the season is unknown.

4. Do you have suggestions to improve the quality, utility, and clarity of the information collected?

There is currently an independent review being conducted of the AMBCC survey design and data protocols. The expectation is that a report due in 2016 will provide an evaluation of the performance and cost-effectiveness of the survey and also suggestions as appropriate for modifications.

5. Do you have suggestions on ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents?

The easy answer would be suggest that the households be surveyed only once at the end of the harvest season. However, the human survey literature clearly documents that extended lag time between the performance of the activity and the survey can have a significant negative impact on the quality of the data due to memory error and bias.



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Name: David Therchik Date: 11/5/2015

1. Is the information collected by the AMBCC subsistence harvest survey necessary and does the information has practical utility?

Necessary to share information and receive information. Utility of it is the financial help surveyors get.

2. Does it still take the surveyor on average 5 minutes per household to determine whether or not that household agrees to participate in the survey?

It only depends (the time) on the person (HH) that is being surveyed, make it 5-10 mins.

3. Does its still take the household member on average 5 minutes to fill out a seasonal sheet of the AMBCC subsistence harvest survey?

Like the above answer, it depends on the person who is being ~~doing~~ surveyed.

4. Do you have suggestions to improve the quality, utility, and clarity of the information collected?

I would recommend the training of the survey to have fewer checklists. Checklists cause unnecessary confusion sometimes. End "harvester" and "non harvester". Just make it random # selection.

5. Do you have suggestions on ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents?

As stated above, fewer checklists and end Harvester and Non Harvester.



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Name: James M. Van Lanen Date: 11/9/2015

1. Is the information collected by the AMBCC subsistence harvest survey necessary and does the information has practical utility?

Yes. It is the only effective means to track the diversity of migratory bird harvest across Alaska. Harvest numbers and trends by species inform management.

2. Does it still take the surveyor on average 5 minutes per household to determine whether or not that household agrees to participate in the survey?

Yes

3. Does its still take the household member on average 5 minutes to fill out a seasonal sheet of the AMBCC subsistence harvest survey?

Yes

4. Do you have suggestions to improve the quality, utility, and clarity of the information collected?

The color bird ID cards should always be employed in the survey and a copy of the card should always be given to the respondent.

5. Do you have suggestions on ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents?

Remove as much 'red tape' as possible. Train local researchers to be efficient. Subsistence users are always more apt to participate when the process is non-confusing and hassle free.



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Name: Vince Mathews, Yukon Flats National Wildlife Refuge Date: 11/10/2015

1. Is the information collected by the AMBCC subsistence harvest survey necessary and does the information has practical utility?

The subsistence harvest survey information is important to the management of migratory waterfowl within United States, Canada, Mexico, Japan, and Russia. It provides a practical gauge on the consistent level of harvest and the necessary subsistence flexibility on the availability of various waterfowl species.

Collection of this information is part of the co-management of the Alaska Migratory Co-Management Program and provides direct input from the harvesters into monitoring and management of migratory waterfowl.

2. Does it still take the surveyor on average 5 minutes per household to determine whether or not that household agrees to participate in the survey?

Yes and possibly less time since the survey is conducted either by local hire refuge employees or by local tribal employees. Local harvesters are more comfortable and willing to share harvest information with a local resident.

3. Does its still take the household member on average 5 minutes to fill out a seasonal sheet of the AMBCC subsistence harvest survey?

Yes and the length of survey time would be 5 minutes and sharing of stories and traditional knowledge would add time. Comfortable harvesters like to share more than harvested numbers. Sharing and listening builds trust between the program and the harvesters.

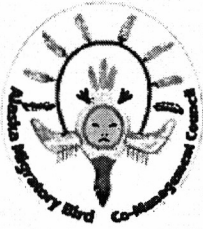
4. Do you have suggestions to improve the quality, utility, and clarity of the information collected?

Yes the surveys should be conducted on a regular basis to provide more opportunity for harvesters to share their information through local hire. Regularly scheduled surveys will help maintain the knowledge and capacity of local villages to successfully conduct the surveys.

Continue to pursue local village hire to conduct the survey and seek their input on improving the survey and sharing the information collected.

5. Do you have suggestions on ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents?

Whenever possible coordinate with other programs/agencies planning on conducting survey in a village. Seek the input from the local village surveyors and their leaders on suggestions to minimize the burden on respondents.



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Name: Patricia Schwabert Date: 11-4-2015

1. Is the information collected by the AMBCC subsistence harvest survey necessary and does the information has practical utility?

yes

2. Does it still take the surveyor on average 5 minutes per household to determine whether or not that household agrees to participate in the survey?

yes

3. Does its still take the household member on average 5 minutes to fill out a seasonal sheet of the AMBCC subsistence harvest survey?

yes

4. Do you have suggestions to improve the quality, utility, and clarity of the information collected?

No

5. Do you have suggestions on ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on respondents?

No