

## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

## Fish and Wildlife Service

## 50 CFR Part 17

RIN 1018-AB31

**Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Proposed Reclassification of the Aleutian Canada Goose From Endangered to Threatened****AGENCY:** Fish and Wildlife Service, Interior.**ACTION:** Proposed rule.

**SUMMARY:** The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) proposes to reclassify the Aleutian Canada goose (*Branta canadensis leucopareia*) from endangered to threatened. This action is proposed due to substantial improvement in the status of this species, whose numbers have increased at least fivefold since listing in 1967. In addition to a total population size that exceeds the minimum recovery goal identified in the Aleutian Canada Goose Recovery Plan, this species is now known to nest on seven separate Alaska islands. This rule is proposed under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (the Act), and is based on a thorough review of all information currently available for the species. The proposed change in classification reflects an improvement in status and will not significantly alter the protection of this species under the Act. The Service seeks data and comments from the public on this proposal.

**DATES:** Comments from all interested parties must be received by November 28, 1989. Public hearing requests must be received by November 13, 1989.

**ADDRESSES:** Comments and materials concerning this proposal should be sent to Endangered Species Coordinator, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 1011 East Tudor Road, Anchorage, Alaska, 99503 or Endangered Species Coordinator, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 1002 N.E. Holladay Street, Portland, Oregon, 97232. Comments and materials received will be available for public inspection, by appointment, during normal business hours at the above addresses.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. Michael Amaral, 605 West 4th Avenue, Anchorage, Alaska, 99501, at 907/271-2888, FTS 271-2888 or Mr. James W. Teeter (see **ADDRESSES** section/Oregon) at 503/231-6158, FTS 429-6158.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:****Background**

*Branta canadensis leucopareia* is one of 11 currently recognized subspecies of the large and diverse *Branta canadensis* group (Bellrose 1976). It is the only subspecies of this group whose range once included both the North American and Asian continents (Amaral 1985). The Aleutian Canada goose is now known to nest only on remote islands of the Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Island chain, Alaska. It can be distinguished from most other Canada geese by its small size (only cackling Canada geese, *B. c. minima*, are smaller) and by a ring of white feathers at the base of the neck in birds older than 6 to 8 months. Most Aleutian Canada geese migrate from their Alaska breeding grounds in September, sometimes stopping along the Oregon coast en route to the wintering grounds in California, where they begin arriving mid-October. One distinct subpopulation winters in coastal Oregon near Pacific City. Aleutian geese depart the wintering areas in April and return to Alaska to nest and rear young during May through September.

The Aleutian Canada goose was added to the U.S. Department of the Interior's list of endangered species on March 11, 1967 (32 FR 4001), and to the list of foreign endangered species (Japan) on June 2, 1970 (35 FR 8495). The decline in numbers of Aleutian Canada geese and the reduction of their breeding range is largely attributed to predation by arctic fox, which were introduced on many Aleutian islands during the period starting 1836 to about 1930. Before their wintering grounds were identified in 1975, Aleutian geese were also among waterfowl hunted recreationally and for food in the Pacific Flyway, particularly California.

At the time of listing, a reliable estimate of the total number of Aleutian Canada geese was not available. However, Kenyon (1963), speculated that only 200-300 individuals of this species remained. Nesting was believed to be restricted to a single island in the western Aleutian archipelago, Buldir, and the migratory route and wintering habits of this species were unknown. Introduced arctic fox persist on most islands throughout the Aleutian chain— islands that formerly provided nesting habitat to the once numerous Aleutian Canada goose. Surveys in the Aleutian Islands in the late 1930's indicated that geese were rare or extirpated in locations where foxes had been introduced (Murie 1959).

Even prior to listing, efforts were undertaken to eliminate introduced fox populations from Aleutian Islands

formerly occupied by nesting geese. By 1965, arctic fox had been eradicated from Amchitka Island and by the late 1970's, Alaid, Nizki, and Agattu Islands were also fox free. More recently, Amukta and Rat Islands have been cleared of introduced foxes. All fox have also apparently been eliminated from Kiska, but additional surveys are needed to verify the island is fox free.

While fox control efforts in Alaska were making former breeding habitat once again suitable for nesting geese, hunting closures in key California and Oregon wintering habitat have been primarily responsible in allowing the wild population to increase from 790 birds in 1975 to about 5,800 birds in fall 1988. Annual increases in numbers of Aleutian Canada geese on the California wintering grounds have averaged 16 per cent (McNab and Springer 1988; Springer and Gregg 1988) during this 14-year period (Table 1). There has been an increase every year since accurate counts started in the spring of 1975, although the increase in 1985-86 was only 2%.

TABLE 1.—PEAK NUMBER OF ALEUTIAN CANADA GEESE WINTERING IN CALIFORNIA, 1975-1988.

Year	Peak count	Increase (%)
1975 (spring).....	790	—
1975-76.....	900	15
1976-77.....	1,200	33
1977-78.....	1,500	25
1978-79.....	1,590	6
1979-80.....	1,740	9
1980-81.....	2,000+	15
1981-82.....	2,700	35
1982-83.....	3,500	30
1983-84.....	3,800	9
1984-85.....	4,200	11
1985-86.....	4,300	2
1986-87.....	4,800+	12
1987-88.....	5,400	12
1988-89.....	5,800	7

The Aleutian Canada Goose Recovery Plan, dated 1977 and revised in 1982, includes the following criteria for reclassification and delisting, respectively:

After self-sustaining populations of 50 or more breeding pairs have been reestablished on each of 2 areas or a total of 100 or more pairs have been reestablished on 3 acres (with 10 pairs the minimum colony size), recommendations for reclassifying the Aleutian Canada goose to threatened status will be sent to the Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. When 50 or more breeding pairs are reestablished on each of 3 areas, recommendations for removal from the list of threatened and endangered species will be sent to the Director.

These criteria are conditional on the wild population maintaining a level of

1,200 birds or greater and the "reestablished populations" being considered additional to and not inclusive of the Buldir Island nesting colony.

Based on the best current estimates available, the Service believes that the primary breeding population on Buldir numbers 1,100–1,500 pairs; 20–22 pairs nest on Kiliktagik Island in the Semidi Islands; and 35–40 pairs nest on Agattu, Nizki and Alaid Islands, which are all in the Near Island group. The Service is less confident of the number of pairs breeding on Chagulak Island in the Islands of Four Mountains. However, based on surveys in 1982 and 1984, the total population is estimated at 250–300 birds (Deines and Hatch 1984), with 50 pairs breeding there currently (Bailey and Trapp 1984). A single breeding pair was also discovered on nearby Amukta Island in 1989.

#### Summary of Factors Affecting the Species

The Service proposes to reclassify the Aleutian Canada goose (*Branta canadensis leucopareia*) from endangered to threatened. The Service's listing regulations (50 CFR part 424) provide for a review of five factors when reclassifying (or listing or delisting) a species (§ 424.11). The Service has studied the relevant information available for the Aleutian Canada goose in North America and summarizes this information for each of these five factors below:

##### 1. The Present or Threatened Destruction, Modification, or Curtailment of its Habitat or Range.

Historically, Aleutian Canada geese are known to have bred on most of the larger Aleutian Islands as well as the Commander and northern Kuril Islands (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 1982). At the time of listing, the known breeding range for the species was restricted to 4,914-acre (1,990-hectare) Buldir Island, which because of its ruggedness and small size was spared the introduction of foxes. The wintering range was thought to have included Japan and from British Columbia to California in North America (Delacour 1954). The precise wintering area(s) of the remnant population breeding at Buldir Island was unknown.

While private inholdings, military activity and the introduction of mammals (e.g., fox, cattle, voles, and ground squirrels) have disturbed some islands, most of the historical breeding range of the Aleutian Canada goose and the islands where Aleutian geese are currently known to nest are uninhabited and relatively undisturbed. Current

nesting islands include Buldir, Agattu, Nizki, Chagulak and Kiliktagik. Single nesting pairs were also discovered on Alaid and Amukta Islands in 1989. All nesting locations are within the Alaska Maritime Natural Refuge.

The wintering range for this species has been the focus of study from 1974 to the present. Areas in California and Oregon essential to the winter survival of this species have been identified and partially protected. Major accomplishments in this respect include additions to the National Wildlife Refuge system in western Oregon, acquisition of Castle Rock and its inclusion in the National Wildlife Refuge system, habitat acquisition and protective easements in the San Joaquin and Sacramento Valleys, and recent approval for habitat acquisition for the new San Joaquin River National Wildlife Refuge. Other areas important to the wintering flock in Del Norte County have been acquired by the State of California and are part of the Department of Fish and Game's Wildlife Area and State Park systems. Notwithstanding, perhaps the greatest remaining threat to the future well-being of this species is the availability of sufficient wintering habitat. Some privately owned agricultural areas currently utilized by the wintering flock are being converted from row crops or pasture to other crops of little or no food value to geese or lost competitively to commercial development.

##### 2. Utilization for Commercial, Recreational, Scientific, or Educational Purposes

Historically, this species was harvested for subsistence purposes by aleuts, a native people indigenous to the Aleutian Islands eastward to Kodiak Island. Aleutian geese were also taken by market hunters in their wintering grounds. In the recent past, Aleutian Canada geese were among other waterfowl hunted recreationally and for food within the Pacific Flyway, particularly California. Although it is generally recognized that the severe numerical decline of the species is attributable to predation on the nesting islands by introduced arctic fox, hunting in migration and wintering areas was significant in that it was the likely factor preventing remnant breeding populations such as those on Buldir and Chagulak Islands, from recovering. Management of the Canada goose harvest in California was complicated by three factors: (1) Specific areas important to *leucopareia* had not yet been identified; (2) many subspecies of Canada geese intermix in California during winter; and (3) most hunters

cannot readily differentiate the various subspecies.

Since 1973, the area of Unimak Pass, Alaska, has been closed to the hunting of Canada geese. In the wintering grounds the distribution and movements of Aleutian Canada geese were determined by sightings and band returns of individuals that were color marked by their Buldir Island nesting grounds and at the spring staging areas near Crescent City, California. A comprehensive effort ensued to protect the wintering flock from hunting and to secure roosting and feeding habitat. Three areas in California—Del Norte and Humboldt Counties, areas near Colusa, and localities near Modesto and Los Banos—have been closed to Canada goose hunting since 1975. In Oregon, portions of Coos, Curry and Tillamook Counties have similarly been closed since 1982. More recently, Aleutian Canada geese in Washington, Oregon, and California have also benefited indirectly, from hunting closures designated to protect wintering dusky Canada geese (*B. c. occidentalis*) and cackling Canada geese.

Cooperation and support among all levels of government (federal, state, county, and municipal) and hunger and waterfowl interest groups have made the effort to protect the geese on the wintering grounds possible. The effectiveness and success of the hunting closures are clearly demonstrated in two ways: (1) Available data indicate that annual mortality to illegal hunting is usually far less than one percent of the total population; and (2) the wild population has increased from 790 birds in 1975, when the closures in California were implemented, to almost 6,000 birds in 1988 (McNab and Springer 1988). It is anticipated that key migration and wintering areas in Alaska, Oregon, and California will continue to be closed to Aleutian Canada goose hunting until this species has fully recovered and is delisted.

##### 3. Disease or Predation

Predation by introduced arctic fox in the Aleutian Island nesting grounds had a severe impact on this species. In the period from 1949 to the present, Service efforts have resulted in the removal of introduced arctic fox from Amchitka (73,024 acres; 29,552 hectares), Agattu (55,535 acres; 22,475 hectares), Alaid and Nizki (3,175 acres; 1,285 hectares), Rat (6,861 acres; 2,777 hectares), and Amukta (12,425 acres; 5,028 hectares) Islands. Fox removal efforts have also apparently succeeded on Kiska Island (69,598 acres; 28,166 hectares), although additional surveys are needed for

verification. Together with the several small islands that either escaped fox introductions or where fox populations have died out, more than 244,000 acres (98,785 hectares) are currently fox free in the Aleutians. However, this represents less than 15 percent of the habitat that was available to nesting geese prior to the era of fox introductions.

Concurrent with the fox removal program, an effort was conducted to reintroduce Aleutian geese to these former nesting islands where foxes were eliminated. Initial reintroductions were of captive raised geese. In 1979, wild family groups of geese were transplanted to release islands from the nesting population at Buldir. In 1984, the Service confirmed that a small population of nesting geese had been reestablished on Agattu Island. This marked the first nesting of wild Aleutian Canada geese on Agattu since the 1930's. Service efforts have also resulted in the return of Aleutian geese to Nizki and Alaid Islands where a small breeding population was confirmed in 1988. Although more than 450 Aleutian geese have been released on Amchitka and 116 geese were recently released on Little Kiska, nesting on these islands has not yet been confirmed.

The Service intends to continue the fox eradication effort on additional islands. Rats, which have been introduced to Amchitka, Kiska and Rat Islands, are a potential predator on goslings and eggs. No other mammalian predators occur in the breeding grounds and losses to avian predators (bald eagles, common ravens, parasitic jaegers, glaucous-winged gulls, and peregrine falcons) are not known to pose a significant threat except in the Rat Island group (Amchitka, Kiska, and Little Kiska) where the bald eagle predation is a problem following the release of either captive raised or transplanted geese. Although coyotes, peregrine, and prairie falcons may occasionally prey on Aleutian Canada geese wintering in California, predation there is not a significant mortality factor.

Low level bacterial and parasitic infestations have been detected among geese on Buldir Island, but in the breeding range, losses to these or other diseases are not known to have ever been significant. In California however, the wintering flock is often concentrated in areas of available food, water, or roosting sites and considerable mortality to disease has occurred. In 1987, approximately 50 Aleutian Canada geese succumbed during an outbreak of avian cholera that killed several

hundred waterfowl in the Modesto area. Cholera is a chronic problem in the San Joaquin Valley and, while the geese can be hazed from locations where cholera is prevalent, few safe alternative roosting areas are currently available.

The threat of large losses to disease will increase as the population grows in number but remains concentrated. A Disease and Contamination Hazard Contingency Plan has been prepared by the Aleutian Canada Goose Recovery Team. The purpose of the plan is to minimize losses of geese through establishing a protocol to respond to disease or contaminant occurrences.

#### 4. The Inadequacy of Existing Regulatory Mechanism

This species is protected by the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended; the Migratory Bird Treaty Act; and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species as an appendix I species. Captive raised *B. c. leucopareia* are treated as if listed in appendix II. It is also currently designated as endangered by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and recognized as endangered by the State of California, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the Washington Department of Wildlife. If the proposed reclassification to threatened status becomes final, no substantive change in the protection afforded this species under these regulatory mechanisms is anticipated. Existing regulatory mechanisms determined necessary to protect this species and its essential habitat will remain in effect.

#### 5. Other Natural or Manmade Factors Affecting its Continued Existence

In 1982, the discovery of a remnant breeding population of Aleutian Canada geese on 2,082-acre (842-hectare) Chagulak Island (Bailey and Trapp 1984), which also apparently escaped the introduction of foxes, greatly benefited the recovery program. Another apparent remnant breeding population was discovered on Kiliktagik Island (230 acres, 93 hectares) south of the Alaska Peninsula in 1979 (Hatch and Hatch 1983). This location is east of what was previously considered the historical breeding range for the species (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 1982). Physical measurements of the birds indicated that the geese on Kiliktagik were intermediate between Aleutian Canada geese and a slightly larger mainland occurring subspecies, *B. c. taverneri* (Johnson *et al.* 1979). Shields and Wilson (1987) examined samples of mitochondrial DNA from these and other geese (*leucopareia*) from Buldir and Chagulak, and two mainland

occurring subspecies, *taverneri* and *minima*. Their study demonstrated that subspecies of Canada geese have distinct mitochondrial DNA by which they can be identified. Shields and Wilson concluded that the Kiliktagik Island geese showed a clear affinity to *leucopareia* from Buldir and Chagulak and were, in fact, separable from both *taverneri* and *minima*. This information, together with morphological and behavioral similarities, and historical accounts which indicate geese were present in the Semidi Island group as early as 1970, support the conclusion that the geese on Kiliktagik are a relict population from what probably was once a continuous island occurring form that extended from the western Gulf of Alaska and Alaska Peninsula region to the Commander and Kuril Islands of the Soviet Union (Hatch and Hatch 1983).

Aleutian geese using coastal areas traditionally roost on off-shore islands as Castle Rock near Crescent City, California and on rocky islands such as Chief Kiwanda Rock near Pacific City, Oregon. The use of these sites exposes the geese to storm systems that sometimes drive the birds into the sea. Storm-related drowning accounted for the mortality of 43 Aleutian Canada geese near Crescent City in 1984, and 23 Aleutian geese near Pacific City in 1987 (Springer *et al.* in preparation; Lowe 1987). Although these occurrences are isolated events, Aleutian geese traditionally spend a large part of their annual life cycle in proximity to the marine environment, including a twice annual trans-oceanic migration, and drowning may be an important natural mortality factor. A small number of Aleutian geese have also died as a result of collisions with man-made structures such as powerlines and from lead poisoning from the ingestion of spent lead shot. Man-made structures do not currently pose a significant collision hazard for the species, and mortality from lead poisoning in the future should be negligible as the use of lead shot is phased out.

Endangered species that are reduced to very small numerical levels may sustain the added threat of reduced genetic fitness. In effect, they may lack resiliency or the ability to adapt to environmental changes or events that may jeopardize their existence (Brussard 1986). Early population estimates suggest that Aleutian Canada geese numbered from 200-800 at their lowest population level and relict populations persisted on three widely separated islands. Therefore, it is unlikely that the present population is

suffering deleterious effects from lost genetic fitness.

#### Summary of Status

This species has been the focus of a 20-year comprehensive recovery program since listing, and has benefited from many management and research accomplishments in both the breeding and wintering grounds. The wild population has increased an average of 16 percent annually since 1975 and now exceeds 5,000 birds. As population growth continued an upward trend, the known breeding range has also expanded. In addition to Buldir Island, Aleutian geese are now also known to breed on Chagulak and Kiliktagik Islands (remnant populations discovered since listing) and the Near Islands (Agattu, Alaid and Nizki). A single pair of nesting geese was also discovered on Amukta Island in 1989.

A method for reestablishing breeding populations extirpated by introduced foxes was developed on Agattu Island and is currently being used in the effort to return geese to Amchitka and Little Kiska Islands. The Service also plans to reintroduce geese to Kiska Island in the near future. All current nesting islands and most of the historic breeding habitat for this species in North America is within the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge.

Although arctic fox have been eradicated on six Aleutian islands, fox populations persist on many other islands that formerly supported nesting geese. The Service's logistical ability to carry out recovery programs including fox removal and reestablishing geese on fox free islands has been greatly enhanced by the acquisition of the research vessel, *Tiglax*.

In California and Oregon, efforts to acquire or protect key wintering habitat have been partially successful. Several important areas, including Castle Rock, have been acquired and are now part of the National Wildlife Refuge system. Other important wintering areas are not currently protected and are threatened with conversion from pasture or agricultural lands to other uses such as housing, highway, and commercial development. Recent authorization for a 10,300 acre (4,170 hectare) addition to the National Wildlife Refuge system west of Modesto may alleviate some of the threats to the wintering population in this region (Helvie 1987).

Chronic outbreaks of avian cholera and botulism pose additional threats to wintering waterfowl populations. Cumulatively, fewer than 100 Aleutian geese are known to have succumbed to disease since 1975. Although documented mortality to date has been

low, the potential exists for catastrophic losses to occur. Hence, geese are routinely hazed from areas where cholera is prevalent which forces them to use less preferred roosting sites, travel greater distances to feeding areas and increases the potential for mortality from illegal hunting. The recent development of a Disease and Contaminant Hazard Contingency Plan (Wilbur *et al.* 1987) will quicken agency response and minimize losses to these potential threats. The Service's Madison National Wildlife Health Research Center has also developed a vaccine effective in immunizing Canada geese from avian cholera. Although no wild Aleutian Canada geese have been inoculated, the capability exists. The methodology for raising this bird in captivity is also well established. More than 140 *leucopareia* are currently being held by zoos and waterfowl propagators in the United States and Canada. This captive flock ensures a separate and secure gene pool should the wild population suffer severe losses from disease or natural calamity.

The definitions of endangered, species, and threatened at § 424.02 of this title are as follows:

(e) "Endangered species" means a species that is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range.

(k) "Species" includes any species or subspecies of fish, wildlife, or plant, and any distinct population segment of any vertebrate species that interbreeds when mature \* \* \*.

(m) "Threatened species" means any species that is likely to become an endangered species within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range.

Population increases, current nesting on seven fox free Aleutian islands, and protection of the wintering flock through hunting closures and habitat acquisition have significantly reduced the degree of threat to this species. The Service is most encouraged by the existence of additional breeding populations but acknowledges that current biogeographical and extinction theory strongly suggest that small, isolated populations are very vulnerable to extirpation from random environmental events or other factors. In reviewing the progress toward recovery that this species has made since listing, the Service concludes that the Aleutian Canada goose is no longer in danger of extinction. However, due to the small size of reestablished breeding populations, the continued presence of introduced arctic fox on many former nesting islands, and threats to the species on the wintering grounds from habitat alteration and disease, the Service finds that delisting is premature.

Based on a careful assessment of the best scientific and commercial information available regarding past, present and future threats faced by this species, the preferred action is therefore, to reclassify the Aleutian Canada goose from endangered to threatened. The Service will recommend that this species be delisted when recovery criteria as outlined in the recovery plan are reached (see **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**, Background section).

#### Effects of Rule

If made final, this rule would change the status of the Aleutian Canada goose at 50 CFR 17.11 from endangered to threatened. These rules would acknowledge the population of Canada geese breeding on Kiliktagik Island in the Semidi Islands and wintering in Tillamook County, Oregon as being *Branta canadensis leucopareia*. Furthermore, these rules would formally recognize the relative security of this species from no longer being in imminent danger of extinction throughout a significant portion of its range. This proposed change in classification does not significantly alter the protection for this species under the Endangered Species Act. Anyone taking, attempting to take, or otherwise possessing an Aleutian Canada goose in an illegal manner would still be subject to penalty under section 11 of the Act. There would be no difference in penalties for the illegal take of an endangered species versus a threatened species. Section 7 of the Act would also continue to protect this species from federal actions that would jeopardize the continued existence of the species.

#### Public Comments Solicited

The Service intends that any final action resulting from this proposal will be accurate and as effective as possible. Therefore, any comments or suggestions from the public, other concerned governmental agencies, the scientific community, industry, or any other interested party concerning any aspect of this proposal are hereby solicited. Comments particularly are sought concerning:

- (1) Biological or other relevant data concerning any threat (or lack thereof) to Aleutian Canada geese;
- (2) The location of any additional populations of this species;
- (3) Additional information concerning the range and distribution of this species; and
- (4) Current or planned activities in the subject area and their possible impacts on this species.

Final promulgation of the regulation on *Branta canadensis leucopareia* will take into consideration the comments and any additional information received by the Service, and such communications may lead to adoption of a final regulation that differs from this proposal.

The Endangered Species Act provides for a public hearing on this proposal, if requested. Requests must be filed within 45 days of the date of the proposal. Such requests must be made in writing and addressed to either identified under **ADDRESSES** above.

#### National Environmental Policy Act

The Fish and Wildlife Service has determined that an Environmental Assessment, as defined by the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, need not be prepared in connection with regulations adopted pursuant to section 4(a) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended. A notice outlining the Service's reasons for this determination was published in the **Federal Register** on October 25, 1983 (48 FR 49244).

#### Literature Cited

In addition to the list of references provided below, species experts, numerous other scientific papers, letters, and unpublished field and administrative reports were consulted in preparation of this proposed rule. Persons interested in examining these materials may do so at the Ecological Services Anchorage field office (see **ADDRESSES** section) by appointment during normal business hours (907/271-2888).

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report, Humboldt State University, Arcata, California. 15 pp.

Springer, P.F., R.W. Lowe, R.K. Stroud and P.A. Gullett. In preparation. Probable drowning of Aleutian Canada geese on the Pacific coast of California and Oregon. 13 pp.

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Wilbur, S., P. Springer, F. Lee, T. Rothe, and C. Zeillemaker. 1987. Disease and contamination hazard contingency plan. Unpub. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service report, Anchorage, Alaska. 15 pp.

#### Author

The primary author of this proposed rule is Mr. Michael Amaral, Endangered Species Specialist, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 605 West 4th Avenue, Anchorage, Alaska 99501 (907/271-2888).

#### List of Subjects in 50 CFR Part 17

Endangered and threatened species, Fish, Marine mammals, Plants (agriculture).

#### Proposed Regulation Promulgation

Accordingly, it is hereby proposed to amend part 17, subchapter B of chapter I, title 50 of the Code of Federal Regulations, as set forth below:

#### PART 17—[AMENDED]

1. The authority citation for part 17 continues to read as follows:

**Authority:** 16 U.S.C. 1361-1407; 16 U.S.C. 1531-1543; 16 U.S.C. 4201-4245; Pub. L. 99-625, 100 Stat. 3500; unless otherwise noted.

#### § 17.11 [Amended]

2. It is proposed to amend the table in § 17.11(h) under BIRDS for "Goose, Aleutian Canada" by changing the entry under "status" to read "T".

Dated: September 14, 1989.

John F. Turner,

Director, Fish and Wildlife Service.

[FR Doc. 89-23053 Filed 9-28-89; 8:45 am]

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