

**Sea Duck Joint Venture
Annual Project Summary
FY23 (October 1, 2022 – September 30, 2023)**

Project Title: Assessing Hunting Pressure on Common Eiders in Chukotka, Russia, SDJV Project # 164, Agreement F21AC01463

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Project Description:

The aim of the project is to assess the hunting pressure on the eiders and other waterfowl in the eastern part of Chukotka for the elaboration of a strategy of protection and sustainable use of wildlife resources (migratory birds).

The methodology is based on anonymous questionnaire survey in 22 settlements of northern Yakutia and Chukotka made in made in 1999-2005 by Konstantin Klovov and Evgeniy Syroechkovskiy. A similar technique has been used by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Alaska.

For the anonymous survey we selected the north-eastern part of Chukotka autonomous okrug, incl. Chukotskiy, Iultinskiy, and Providenskiy districts. We chose these districts grounding on the results of the survey of hunting pressure on the waterfowl in 1990-2005. There were the districts with the most intensive hunting on eiders.

The questionnaire presents pictures of most birds species hunted in Chukotka. In each survived village and town, we used a random sample, including at least 60% of families, but not more than 100. First, we assessed if anybody in the family is (are) hunter(s) or/and eggs collector(s). If yes, we asked them to indicate for each species the number of birds that they had taken (separately in spring/summer and in autumn/winter) as well as the number of eggs that they had collected.

Additionally, we have conducted several informal interviews with local people for better understanding of the situation with bird hunting and eggs collection.

Project Objectives:

The main project task is to evaluate approximately the number of harvested eider and other waterfowl in the region (orders of magnitude).

Additional tasks of the project are:

- to test a new methodology of the survey of hunting pressure;
- to figure out to what extent local population is interested in hunting eiders and other waterfowl; and,
- to reveal if the hunting pressure on eiders and other waterfowl has changed compared with the beginning of 2000s.

Preliminary Results:

Anonymous questionnaires have been collected in 3 districts (Table 1). Additionally, we have visited two camps of nomadic reindeer herders and have conducted informal interviews on the waterfowl hunting with members of nomadic families. About half of the questionnaires from the settlements of the Chukotka Region have been processed so far. The questionnaires have not been verified yet. There may be significant changes in the results.

Table 1. Number of proceeded questionnaires and hunting families.

District	Town, village	Number of processed questionnaires	Incl. with hunters	% of hunting families
Chukotskiy	Inchoun*)	35	22	62.9%
	Uelen*)	56	26	46.4%
	Lavrentia*)	50	11	22.0%
	Lorino*)	51	16	31.4%
Providensky	Providenia	108	48	44.4%

Iultinskiy	Konergino	50	23	46.0%
	Uelkal	34	22	64.7%
	Ozernyi	34	7	20.6%
	Evgekinot	102	23	22.5%
	Amguema	81	22	27.2%

* Only a half of collected questionnaires have been proceeded and included in the table for the moment

We defined hunting family as a family with at least one hunter. Number of birds taken by a family varied from 8.5 to 30.4. For all the results, it should be noted than only half of collected questionnaires have been proceeded and included in the table for Inchoun, Uelen, Lavrentia and Lorino.

Table 2. Number of birds (all species) hunted per one hunting family (i.e., a family with one or more hunters)

Town, village	All birds					
	Per one hunting family			Per one family		
	Spring and summer	Automn and winter	Total	Spring and summer	Automn and winter	Total
Inchoun	13,7	16,7	30,4	8,6	10,5	19,1
Uelen	24,7	0,6	25,3	11,4	0,3	11,7
Lavrentia	23,0	0,9	23,9	5,1	0,2	5,3
Lorino	12,3	0,9	13,3	3,9	0,3	4,2
Providenia	13,1	6,0	19,1	5,8	2,7	8,5
Konergino	11,0	0,1	11,1	5,1	0,1	5,1
Uelkal	14,5	1,1	15,5	9,4	0,7	10,1
Ozernyi	18,7	1,1	19,9	3,9	0,2	4,1
Evgekinot	9,5	1,3	10,7	2,1	0,3	2,4
Amguema	6,5	2,0	8,5	1,8	0,5	2,3

Number of eiders varied from zero to 18.09 per one hunting family (Table 3).

Table 3. Number of Eiders (all species) hunted per one hunting family (i.e., a family with one or more hunters)

Town, village	Eiders					
	Per one hunting family			Per one family		
	Spring and summer	Autumn and winter	Total	Spring and summer	Autumn and winter	Total
Inchoun	6,95	11,14	18,09	4,37	7,00	11,37
Uelen	10,23	0,04	10,27	4,75	0,02	4,77
Lavrentia	6,73	0,91	7,64	1,48	0,20	1,68
Lorino	4,38	0,00	4,38	1,37	0,00	1,37
Providenia	1,02	0,56	1,58	0,45	0,25	0,70
Konergino	0,52	0,00	0,52	0,24	0,00	0,24
Uelkal	1,68	0,18	1,86	1,09	0,12	1,21
Ozernyi	0,29	0,00	0,29	0,06	0,00	0,06
Evgekinot	1,04	0,22	1,26	0,24	0,05	0,28
Amguema	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00	0,00

Each hunting family took 6.00-15.43 geese (Table 4).

Table 4. Number of Geese (all species) hunted per one hunting family (i.e. a family with one or more hunters)

Town, village	Geese					
	Per one hunting family			Per one family		
	Spring and summer	Autumn and winter	Total	Spring and summer	Autumn and winter	Total
Inchoun	4,05	2,91	6,95	2,54	1,83	4,37
Uelen	5,65	0,00	5,65	2,63	0,00	2,63
Lavrentia	5,55	0,00	5,55	1,22	0,00	1,22
Lorino	6,13	0,00	6,13	1,92	0,00	1,92
Providenia	6,25	0,63	6,88	2,78	0,28	3,06
Konergino	9,65	0,00	9,65	4,44	0,00	4,44
Uelkal	12,64	0,00	12,64	8,18	0,00	8,18
Ozernyi	15,43	0,00	15,43	3,18	0,00	3,18
Evgekinot	5,96	0,65	6,61	1,34	0,15	1,49
Amguema	4,59	1,41	6,00	1,25	0,38	1,63

Among other that eiders and geese birds each hunting family took 0.96-10.73 bird.

Table 5. Number of birds (all species, except Eiders and Geese) hunted per one hunting family (i.e., a family with one or more hunters)

Town, village	Other birds					
	Per one hunting family			Per one family		
	Spring and summer	Autumn and winter	Total	Spring and summer	Autumn and winter	Total
Inchoun	2,68	2,68	5,36	1,69	1,69	3,37
Uelen	8,77	0,58	9,35	4,07	0,27	4,34
Lavrentia	10,73	0,00	10,73	2,36	0,00	2,36
Lorino	1,81	0,94	2,75	0,57	0,29	0,86
Providenia	5,85	4,83	10,69	2,60	2,15	4,75
Konergino	0,83	0,13	0,96	0,38	0,06	0,44
Uelkal	0,14	0,91	1,05	0,09	0,59	0,68
Ozernyi	3,00	1,14	4,14	0,62	0,24	0,85
Evgekinot	2,48	0,39	2,87	0,56	0,09	0,65
Amguema	1,91	0,59	2,50	0,52	0,16	0,68

Project Status:

We are following the initial plan. We have completed our field work and collected all questionnaires. We are planning to start analyzing the questionnaires in October.

Pictures

1. Informal interview with the head of administration at the village of Konergino.



2. Konstantin Klokov with the family of a respondent.



3. Konstantin Klokov with the local people of Konergino village.



4. Ludmila Lazutina with a respondent in Uelkal village.



5. View of village of Konergino.



6. An uninhabited house in Evgakinot town. There are many uninhabited houses in Chukotka as people have migrated toward central regions of Russia.



7. Corridor in a house inhabited by several families in Uelkal village



Photos during the trip in nomadic reindeer herders' camp:

8. All-terrain vehicle that bring us to the nomadic camps.



9. A traditional tent of nomads – “yaranga”.



10, 11, 12, 13. Informal interview with nomad family inside “yaranga”.







