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# PACIFIC FLYWAY COUNCIL

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## Recommendation 1 – Northern Pintail Harvest Strategy Revision

### Recommendation

The Pacific Flyway Council (Council) endorses a scope of work (below) that will guide the Northern Pintail harvest strategy review, and a possible revision in 2018.

### Justification

Council remains committed to the Adaptive Harvest Management (AHM) process initiated in 1995, and supports review and a possible revision to the Northern Pintail harvest strategy. The 2018 Harvest Management Working Group priorities include Western Mallard AHM (high priority) and the Northern Pintail AHM Revision (long-range priority). Only technical adjustments are needed for Western Mallard AHM, which should provide time to focus on the Northern Pintail AHM review and revision.

The current Northern Pintail harvest strategy was adopted in 2010 with the maximum allowable bag limit of 2/day. Council recommended a scenario that allowed for up to 3/day and has continued to advocate for the option of an increased bag limit (Recommendation 16, March 2010 and Recommendation 3, July 2011). At that time the other three flyways did not support a 3-bird daily bag scenario because bag limits could go from 3/day to 1/day in consecutive seasons because a 2/day bag limit was predicted to occur 3% of the time.

Discussions at the Pacific Flyway Study Committee (SC) January work meeting reaffirmed the desire to update and review the Northern Pintail harvest strategy, and the need to lead the development of an outline of the work to start the review and revision process. The SC identified the below items to be considered during the Northern Pintail harvest strategy review and revision. This list of work items will be shared with the other flyways to develop a scoping document to be reviewed by all four flyway councils in fall 2018. Some work items could be completed before fall 2018, and additional coordination to assign tasks can occur at the December 2018 Harvest Management Working Group and the January 2019 SC winter work meeting.

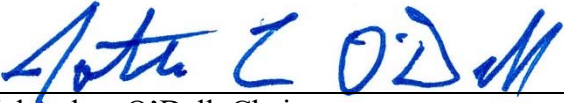
- Update recruitment and expected harvest sub-models, with current banding and harvest data, and determine if updates should occur annually or periodically;
- Determine if harvest rate or total harvest estimates best represent harvest in the model;
- Review, and possibly replace, compensatory harvest model;
- Review performance statistics with and without a 3-bird daily bag limit option;
- Revisit/review objectives;
- Consider alternative experimental approaches to learning about impacts to population demographics with a 3-bird daily bag limit;
- Consider alternative approaches for model weight calculations;
- Consider alternative optimization software; and
- Consider alternative population modeling approaches (e.g., Bayesian demographic model).

The points identified above are considered the scope of work for the Pacific Flyway to lead the effort on review and possible revisions to the Northern Pintail harvest strategy. A working group will be convened to begin assessing the scope of work. Council understands agreement on any of these changes would need concurrence from all flyways and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

**Adoption**

Pacific Flyway Study Committee  
March 9, 2018

Contact: Melanie Weaver



Johnathan O'Dell, Chair

**Adoption**

Pacific Flyway Council  
March 27, 2018

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Josh Avey, Chair