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## **Interim Policy Issued to Implement Federal Duck Stamp Exemption for Alaska's Subsistence Hunters**

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service today announced an interim policy that implements a new law exempting qualified Alaska subsistence hunters from the requirement to possess a Federal Duck Stamp while hunting migratory waterfowl.

The interim policy follows passage of the Federal Duck Stamp Act of 2014, an amendment to the Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp Act. It becomes effective immediately and will remain operational until June 1, 2017. The Service will now work to develop regulations to implement the exemption on a permanent basis. Such regulations will go through an open process including the opportunity for public review and comment.

The congressional action was the result of leadership from the Alaska delegation in recognition of the importance of subsistence in the lives of Alaska Native peoples and other qualifying Alaskans.

The exemption from carrying the Federal Duck Stamp while hunting does not relieve qualified hunters from the requirement to purchase and possess state hunting licenses and stamps and abide by all other applicable federal and state laws. The Service will continue to work with Alaska Native peoples and other qualified subsistence hunters to ensure opportunities for subsistence hunting are available and sustainable.

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