



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Izembek National Wildlife Refuge
P. O. Box 127
Cold Bay, Alaska 99571



Activity Report
Izembek National Wildlife Refuge, September 2024 - February 2025

AVIAN

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza

USGS staff were present in Cold Bay August-October of 2024 to sample for Avian Influenza during the height of avian presence at Izembek NWR. Samples were taken from hunter-harvested birds and the environment to test for presence and type of avian influenza viruses. Samples are currently being processed.

Brant Age Ratio Surveys

The Izembek Brant Age Ratio Survey was conducted September 30 – October 10, 2024. Over the course of the survey, observers counted about 54,106 birds from 131 flocks, which was used to model an estimate of nesting success. The productivity estimate for 2024 indicated that approximately 34% of the fall staging population were first-year birds. This was slightly below the 2023 estimate of 39%. Some variability in annual productivity is expected, and 2024's estimate is still above the long-term average of approximately 25%.

CARIBOU

Federal Subsistence Hunt—Unit 9D (Southern Alaska Peninsula)

The Izembek NWR Federal Subsistence Caribou Hunt in Unit 9D is split into two hunting periods. The first period runs August 1 - September 30, 2024. The second half is open November 15, 2024 - March 31, 2025. To date, we have received reports of 3 caribou harvested in unit 9D.

Federal Subsistence Hunt – Unimak Unit 10

The Unit 10 hunt period that covers Unimak Island is August 1 - September 30, 2024. To date there have not been any harvest reports submitted to the refuge from the participating communities.

Annual Winter Caribou Population Survey

The annual winter caribou population survey of the Southern Alaska Peninsula and Unimak Caribou Herds was conducted February 11-14, 2025. These winter counts are important in understanding general population trends over time. During the survey, a total of 2,151 caribou were observed within the range of the Southern Alaska Peninsula Caribou Herd, and 412 were observed within the range of the Unimak Caribou Herd.