

State of Alaska FY2002 Governor's Operating Budget

Department of Fish and Game
Subsistence Research & Monitoring
BRU/Component

Component: Subsistence Research & Monitoring

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Component Mission

To gather, quantify, evaluate, and report data about uses, users, and methods of subsistence hunting and fishing, and make recommendations on the effects of federal and state laws and regulations on subsistence use.

Component Services Provided

As mandated in Section AS16.05.094, the Division of Subsistence is directed to:

1. Compile existing data and conduct studies to gather information, including data from subsistence users, on all aspects of the role of subsistence hunting and fishing in the lives of the residents of the state;
2. Quantify the amount, nutritional value, and extent of dependence on food acquired through subsistence hunting and fishing;
3. Make information gathered available to the public, appropriate agencies, and other organized bodies;
4. Assist the department, the Board of Fisheries and Board of Game in determining what uses of fish and game, as well as which users and what methods, should be termed subsistence uses, users, and methods;
5. Evaluate the impact of state and federal laws and regulations on subsistence hunting and fishing and, when corrective action is indicated, make recommendations to the department;
6. Make recommendations to the Board of Game and Board of Fisheries regarding adoption, amendment and repeal of regulations affecting subsistence hunting and fishing;
7. Participate with other divisions in the preparation of statewide and regional management plans so that those plans recognize and incorporate the needs of subsistence users of fish and game.

The division provides information on specific subsistence management issues, including those before the Boards of Fisheries and Game and those pertaining to land management activities by state and federal agencies. The public expects information on subsistence uses to be presented along with information on other uses of fish and wildlife, when allocation and land use decisions are made. The division is the only source in the state for comprehensive, reliable subsistence information. The division also provides the public with information about subsistence hunting and fishing regulations, access to the regulatory process, and the differences between the state and federal subsistence programs. Our regional and area offices are critical to the effective management and provision of subsistence uses.

Component Goals and Strategies

- 1) Collect and provide comprehensive, accurate information on subsistence uses of fish and game through research in the five subsistence regions in the state. The division was created by the legislature because successful implementation of the state subsistence law would require a reliable database for making subsistence allocation decisions. The division undertakes research to document subsistence hunting, fishing, and gathering in Alaska and provides information to the general public and to a variety of public agencies, organizations, and decision-making bodies. This is the primary function of the division and will be maintained to the maximum extent possible given available funding.
- 2) Implement the state subsistence law. The division has responsibility for implementing the state subsistence law. This involves following and understanding the legal framework for subsistence implementation, advising the commissioner and other department staff on necessary implementation steps, and guiding the Boards of

Fisheries and Game through the implementation process. Key elements in the implementation process include action by the boards in making customary and traditional use findings, determining the amount reasonably necessary to meet subsistence needs and promulgating regulations that provide a reasonable subsistence harvest opportunity.

Key Component Issues for FY2001 – 2002

Dual Subsistence Fisheries Management. The federal government assumed management of subsistence fishing on federal reserved waters in Alaska on October 1, 1999. The uncertainties of the new federal subsistence fishery management program will require considerable new work for the Division of Subsistence. As lead liaison between the department and the federal program, division staff will work within the department to develop frameworks for interaction between state and federal subsistence fisheries management programs. As repository of subsistence fishery information, the division will be required to provide fisheries information to the dual management program to establish a factual basis for fisheries management. Division staff also will be called upon to comment on the actions and impacts of the new federal program on subsistence uses by Alaskans.

Dual Subsistence Wildlife Management. The federal government assumed management of subsistence hunting on federal public lands in Alaska on July 1, 1990. Dual wildlife management has increasingly led to different hunting regulations for state and federal subsistence hunts. The Division of Subsistence has been assigned the lead for the department's coordination and liaison functions with the federal subsistence wildlife management program. This work entails tracking the federal board process to comment on proposals; filing requests for reconsideration when federal decisions are counter to factual analysis; identifying management problems to protect the state's wildlife uses and sustained yield; and providing departmental information throughout the process, including litigation.

Subsistence Law Resolution. Attempts to find legal resolutions of the dual management situation and the resumption of state management of fish and wildlife on federal lands are likely to continue as important issues in FY2002. Efforts by the administration or the legislature to regain state management and/or because of legal decisions could change the present management landscape. Division data and expertise will be called upon to provide the factual basis and the necessary analysis that may contribute to a legal resolution of the present management impasse.

State Subsistence Law Implementation. The present state subsistence law provides subsistence eligibility to all Alaskans and establishes several non-subsistence use areas in the state. The Division of Subsistence provides a factual basis and analysis of fishing and hunting patterns to support the implementation of the law by the Board of Fisheries and Board of Game. Implementing the present law requires providing information to the boards as they act in several areas: determining customary and traditional uses of fish stocks and wildlife populations; creating regulations that provide a reasonable opportunity for subsistence harvests; and constructing and administering Tier II hunting & fishing procedures when stocks and populations are not sufficient to provide for all subsistence uses. Division data provide the basis for Boards of Fisheries and Game deliberations regarding customary and traditional use determinations and subsistence regulations.

Major Component Accomplishments for FY2000

Reports Completed. Division staff completed four technical papers, seven special reports, a video, as well as the periodic updates to the Community Profile Database, the Map Catalog Database, and the Historic Salmon Harvest Database. The technical papers and special projects reports included subsistence harvest and use profiles in selected communities, resource-specific analyses of harvests of salmon, marine mammals and migratory birds throughout the state, and Exxon Valdez oil spill impact related studies.

Fish and Game Boards Support. The division provided information to the boards as they deliberated on numerous subsistence proposals and made customary and traditional use determinations in several areas of the state. Positive customary and traditional use determinations for furbearers, and, brown and black bear in southeast were completed during the 2000/2001 meeting cycle of the Board of Game. The Board of Fisheries reviewed subsistence findings in the Arctic/Yukon/Kuskokwim regions as they focused on recovery plans for the salmon stocks declared disasters in summer 2000.

Special Assignments. Division expertise was requested for several special issues including a cabinet level group to address and respond to the disastrous salmon returns in western Alaska. Regional information on subsistence harvests and uses from the Community Profile Database were presented to the cabinet working group as it developed policy and regulations to respond to the disaster. Another special project involves the development of a long-term relationship with the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation to elicit consumption and site-use specific information for identified locations around the state. This information will then be used to develop standard procedures to evaluate potential health risk assessment of human uses from contaminated sites and the remediation process of those contaminated sites. The division's expertise and credibility in working with rural communities prompted DEC to seek out this collaborative work with the division.

Statutory and Regulatory Authority

AS16.05.094
AS16.05.258
AS16.05.090
5AAC 99.010

Key Performance Measures for FY2002

Measure: Identify subsistence issues that require research to provide a reasonable opportunity for the subsistence priority.
(Not yet addressed by Legislature.)

Benchmark:

- For specific fish stocks, wildlife populations, and geographic areas, identify subsistence issues requiring research;
- Conduct the research and analyze the data;
- Share and discuss results with communities, management agencies and regulatory bodies;
- Assist the fish and game boards to identify customary and traditional uses and determine amounts reasonably necessary for subsistence.

Background and Strategies:

Background: In recognition of the economic and cultural importance of subsistence hunting and fishing to many Alaskan families and communities the Alaska legislature passed a law granting a priority for subsistence uses over all other consumptive uses in 1978. That same law established the Division of Subsistence as a research arm of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. The division's main duties are to conduct research to document subsistence uses, estimate subsistence harvest levels, and evaluate potential impacts to subsistence users from other uses and development activities. The division's subsistence database ideally should be updated at regular intervals, preferably every five to ten years. Much of the information in the database is over 15 years old and updates occur as resources become available, which has been intermittent and long (12 plus years) intervals. The state is also mandated to provide for other beneficial uses. Current, reliable information on subsistence uses is critical to providing maximum multiple uses of fish and wildlife resources.

Measure: Establish effective collaboration with communities, other divisions, and agencies in relevant research program.
(Not yet addressed by Legislature.)

Benchmark:

- Communicate with local and regional leaders, fish and game advisory committee members, boards of fish and game, and other fish and wildlife agencies regarding issues and developments that impact subsistence uses and opportunities;
- Identify issues and communities conducive to generating answers to research questions;
- Garner local support for and participation in research projects.

Background and Strategies:

see measure 1

Measure: Work with communities and other database agencies to obtain current and accurate information on subsistence systems, other socioeconomic and demographic conditions in subsistence areas.

(Not yet addressed by Legislature.)

Benchmark:

- Input the latest subsistence information from division community-based research projects and other agency databases into the division's Community Profile Database;
- Identify gaps in the database;
- Prioritize the list of data needs and identify resources and schedule staff time to address needs;
- Incorporate new information into reports to regulatory and management agencies.

Background and Strategies:

See measure 1

Measure: Participate in research and management actions by the Federal Subsistence Board and federal regional advisory council system affecting resource harvests by Alaskans.

(Not yet addressed by Legislature.)

Benchmark:

- Review and evaluate federal subsistence proposals;
- Coordinate department comments on proposals;
- Inform federal subsistence program about proposal impacts to state subsistence and non subsistence uses both on and off federal lands and waters;
- Incorporate federal actions into state management system so the state continues to provide a reasonable opportunity for state subsistence uses.

Background and Strategies:

Background: Both the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) and the state law provide for a subsistence priority, but each has different eligibility requirements. Under ANILCA, only rural residents qualify for the priority while under state law, all Alaskans can qualify for the priority. Subsistence hunts and fisheries on federal lands and waters are managed by the Federal Subsistence Board and state subsistence, commercial, recreational and personal use hunts and fisheries are managed by the Alaska Boards of Fisheries and Game. this "dual management" system has increasingly led to different regulations for subsistence hunting on federal and state lands and it is expected to have the same result with management of subsistence fisheries. Dual management has significantly increased the work load for the division.

Strategy: The division has lead department coordination and liaison functions with the Federal Subsistence Board. This work entails tracking the federal board process to comment on proposals, filing requests for reconsideration sustained yield; and providing departmental information throughout the process, including litigation.

Status of FY2001 Performance Measures

	<i>Achieved</i>	<i>On track</i>	<i>Too soon to tell</i>	<i>Not likely to achieve</i>	<i>Needs modification</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify subsistence issues that require research to provide a reasonable opportunity for the subsistence priority. 		X			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish effective collaboration with communities, other divisions, and agencies in relevant research program. 		X			

Component — Subsistence Research & Monitoring

	<i>Achieved</i>	<i>On track</i>	<i>Too soon to tell</i>	<i>Not likely to achieve</i>	<i>Needs modification</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with communities and other database agencies to obtain current and accurate information on subsistence systems, other socioeconomic and demographic conditions in subsistence areas. • Participate in research and management actions by the Federal Subsistence Board and federal regional advisory council system affecting resource harvests by Alaskans. • The percentage of Alaska communities in each region for which fisheries harvest data are collected and reported. • The percentage of Alaska communities in each region for which wildlife harvest data are collected and reported. • The percentage of subsistence proposals at meetings of the Board of Fisheries and the Board of Game for which subsistence data are assessed and recommendations are made. • The percentage of proposed statutory and regulatory changes by federal and other state entities for which subsistence data are assessed and recommendations are made. 		X			
		X			
		X			
		X			
		X			

Subsistence Research & Monitoring
Component Financial Summary

All dollars in thousands

	FY2000 Actuals	FY2001 Authorized	FY2002 Governor
Non-Formula Program:			
Component Expenditures:			
71000 Personal Services	949.7	1,082.0	1,109.7
72000 Travel	73.2	115.6	110.6
73000 Contractual	134.9	176.1	156.1
74000 Supplies	14.3	22.4	21.9
75000 Equipment	38.6	4.5	0.0
76000 Land/Buildings	0.0	0.0	0.0
77000 Grants, Claims	0.0	0.0	0.0
78000 Miscellaneous	0.0	0.0	0.0
Expenditure Totals	1,210.7	1,400.6	1,398.3
Funding Sources:			
1004 General Fund Receipts	883.2	903.5	906.7
1007 Inter-Agency Receipts	327.5	497.1	491.6
Funding Totals	1,210.7	1,400.6	1,398.3

Estimated Revenue Collections

Description	Master Revenue Account	FY2000 Actuals	FY2001 Authorized	FY2001 Cash Estimate	FY2002 Governor	FY2003 Forecast
Unrestricted Revenues						
None.		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Unrestricted Total		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Restricted Revenues						
Interagency Receipts	51015	327.5	497.1	497.1	491.6	491.6
Restricted Total		327.5	497.1	497.1	491.6	491.6
Total Estimated Revenues		327.5	497.1	497.1	491.6	491.6

Subsistence Research & Monitoring

Proposed Changes in Levels of Service for FY2002

No component changes are anticipated.

Summary of Component Budget Changes

From FY2001 Authorized to FY2002 Governor

All dollars in thousands

	<u>General Funds</u>	<u>Federal Funds</u>	<u>Other Funds</u>	<u>Total Funds</u>
FY2001 Authorized	903.5	0.0	497.1	1,400.6
Adjustments which will continue current level of service:				
-Year 2 Labor Costs - Net Change from FY2001	3.2	0.0	-5.5	-2.3
FY2002 Governor	906.7	0.0	491.6	1,398.3

Subsistence Research & Monitoring**Personal Services Information**

Authorized Positions			Personal Services Costs	
	FY2001 Authorized	FY2002 Governor		
Full-time	10	12	Annual Salaries	840,254
Part-time	3	3	COLA	7,703
Nonpermanent	0	0	Premium Pay	0
			Annual Benefits	296,200
			<i>Less 3.01% Vacancy Factor</i>	(34,457)
			Lump Sum Premium Pay	0
Totals	13	15	Total Personal Services	1,109,700

Position Classification Summary

Job Class Title	Anchorage	Fairbanks	Juneau	Others	Total
Administrative Assistant	1	0	0	0	1
Administrative Clerk III	0	1	0	0	1
F&W Technician V	0	0	0	1	1
Prog Coordinator	1	0	0	0	1
Research Analyst IV	0	0	1	0	1
Subsist Resource Spec I	0	0	0	1	1
Subsist Resource Spec II	0	1	2	1	4
Subsist Resource Spec III	1	1	0	1	3
Subsistence Reg Prog Mngr	1	1	0	0	2
Totals	4	4	3	4	15