

State of Alaska FY2002 Governor's Operating Budget

Department of Public Safety
Fish and Wildlife Protection
Budget Request Unit

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BRU Mission

The mission of the Division of Fish & Wildlife Protection is to protect the state's fish and wildlife resources.

BRU Services Provided

- 1) Perform FWP enforcement patrols and investigations throughout Alaska's 586,000 square miles of landmass and 36,000 miles of coastline with vessels, aircraft and vehicles.
- 2) Perform marine enforcement patrols over expanded jurisdiction in the Bering Sea of approximately 335,000 square miles through the Magnuson Fishery Conservation Management Act.
- 3) Maintain 34 FWP post locations throughout the state to serve the public and provide local enforcement response.
- 4) Participate in search and rescue missions statewide.

BRU Goals and Strategies

The main goal is to protect all State fish and game resources by decreasing harmful impacts to fish and game resources, reducing opportunities for poachers and increasing public awareness and participation in resource protection. Fish & Wildlife Protection Troopers will accomplish this through:

- 67,172 fish and game resource user contacts,
- 7,559 aircraft patrol flying hours,
- 493 large vessel patrol sea days,
- 742 small vessel patrol sea days,
- Timely receive and investigate tips received through the Wildlife Safeguard Hotline, and
- Provide public education on resource related topics to the public and schools.

Key BRU Issues for FY2001 – 2002

ECONOMIC VALUE OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

There are currently 211 separate commercial fisheries throughout the State of Alaska including harvests of salmon, herring, groundfish, halibut, crab, and shellfish. In 1999 more than 26,000 commercial fisheries entry permits were purchased and more than 15,000 vessels were licensed to harvest these resources. Ex-vessel values of commercial fish and shellfish exceed \$1 billion dollars annually. Fisheries Business Taxes and Fishery Resource Landing Fees account for over \$20 million dollars in revenue to the State each year. Many Alaskans, local businesses, and industries rely upon healthy commercial fisheries to provide employment and income opportunities. These factors contribute greatly to the economic base of the state. Adequate protection of these commercial fish and shellfish stocks is essential to the continued economic stability and health of Alaska.

A number of new commercial fisheries have developed in the past decade. One example is the developing dive fisheries that harvest sea urchins, sea cucumbers, geoducks, and other marine invertebrates. More than 700 permit holders harvest these resources providing employment for crewmembers and supporting shore based processing and supply industries. Ten years ago these fisheries did not exist.

Maintenance of an adequate patrol vessel fleet is critical for effective commercial fisheries enforcement. With more than 50,000 persons crewing more than 15,000 registered commercial fishing vessels, the present 19 patrol vessels are inadequate for sufficient coverage. Without effective enforcement, poachers can move into areas and decimate sensitive fish and shellfish populations in short periods of time at great profit. Illegal activity has contributed

significantly to the loss of several important fish and shellfish populations that are no longer available for commercial harvest.

Of the present 211 commercial fisheries, 38 lack sufficient enforcement coverage to assure overall compliance with fishing regulations. For example, the current Bristol Bay salmon fishery takes 20% of the Division's total enforcement personnel for 4 weeks during the peak of many other important commercial, subsistence and sport fisheries. It is impossible for present personnel to cover all areas that need protection. Many other commercial fisheries occur during peak hunting seasons and receive no coverage at all.

Timely replacement of marine enforcement vessels has not occurred in spite of a recommended replacement schedule. One vessel in the fleet is 47 years old; this can compromise safety and create excessive maintenance costs. The current CIP request for vessel replacement addresses the problem and will facilitate maintained protection of valuable fisheries resources. Support for this request will insure continued protection of a resource that many Alaskan communities and families rely upon.

ECONOMIC VALUE OF SPORT FISHERIES

Statistics published by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service show that people spent \$548 million dollars in the State on sport fishing activities. Much of this revenue goes into local economies, businesses and industries that provide services to sport anglers. Many of these businesses support local governments in taxes and other revenues. Law enforcement plays a key role in maintaining healthy fish stocks by deterring poachers and enforcing regulations managed for sustained yield.

A strong partnership exists between resource management and enforcement. Alaska's fish and game resources are managed by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game which depends upon the Department of Public Safety's Division of Fish and Wildlife Protection to enforce those resource management decisions which take the form of regulations. Without adequate enforcement, sport fish stocks will not meet the constitutional concept of sustained yield. Alaska's sport fish stocks are valuable economic assets and an integral part of many Alaskans' livelihood. These resources will dwindle or disappear if enforcement is not properly maintained. Without a strong law enforcement presence, all the careful management and scientific research cannot protect these resources from criminals who wish to exploit them for profit.

In recent years there has been a significant increase in the number of regulations governing sport fishing. With declines of some available fish stocks and increases in fishing pressure many new regulations have been passed limiting the way people can take sport fish. For example, many areas on the Kenai Peninsula and Matanuska-Susitna areas have prohibited bait, banned night fishing, limited commercial charter operations, reduced bag limits, established annual limits, imposed catch logging, and reduced possession limits. During this period when hundreds of new regulations have appeared to protect vulnerable fish populations, the number of FWP troopers statewide has remained relatively flat.

Nearly every river, stream, lake and saltwater region in Alaska supports active sport fisheries. Many of these important sport fisheries occur during peak harvests of commercial fish and hunting seasons. With 86 funded FWP Troopers Statewide to monitor all these resource harvests and more than 400,000 sport fishermen, many sport fishing areas go without adequate enforcement coverage. Sport anglers alone fished a total of more than 5 million days according to a federal survey. Commercial sport fish guide operations discover and develop new areas for sport fishing and harvest on a continuing basis. FWP personnel, vessels and equipment have not kept pace with these increases. Many sport fish and shellfish populations have been greatly reduced from historical levels of harvest.

ECONOMIC VALUE OF HUNTING

Hunters spend approximately \$200 million dollars to pursue hunting activities each year in the State of Alaska. This represents a major source of revenue for many Alaskan businesses. Additionally, hunting is a long-standing tradition in Alaska with deep roots in culture and lifestyle. Many people supply their families with game meat and teach their children wise use of game resources. Financial value alone cannot be placed upon this important resource. Failure to provide adequate protection can result in reduction or loss of game populations across the state. Loss of game populations would also adversely affect wildlife-watching activities that bring approximately \$750 million dollars into the State each year.

A number of new wintertime subsistence hunts have been added over the years requiring FWP troopers to monitor more areas with more hunters. Recent federal studies indicate that 73,000 hunters in Alaska spent more than 1 million days hunting. Many of these hunters utilize all terrain vehicles, aircraft and boats to travel to remote hunting areas.

Presently, FWP must rotate personnel to ensure visibility into a number of areas during hunting seasons. This means that while some areas receive adequate enforcement each year, others receive little or no coverage. Since the public never knows which areas will be selected for coverage, some deterrent value remains. However, due to ongoing commercial, sport, subsistence and other resource uses, less than 25% of important hunting areas are given adequate enforcement coverage.

Human population increases add pressure on game resources; the Division must keep pace by strategically relocating its staff to areas of resource user demands. For example, in FY2001, public resource use and the need to protect vulnerable fish and big game populations shifted to areas near Kotzebue, Galena, and the Dalton Highway.

To better serve the public and protect valuable populations of fish and wildlife, FWP reallocated staff to open posts at Big Lake and Cantwell. These new posts were unbudgeted and impacted enforcement coverage in other areas of the State as program costs were shifted to these new locations.

In recent years due to budgetary constraints, the Division has closed post locations such as Talkeetna, Yakutat, Niniilchik and Wrangell. As population has increased and resource uses have shifted, placement of enforcement personnel must also shift. Sufficient funding would restore needed service to these closed posts.

ECONOMIC VALUE OF THE GUIDE INDUSTRY

In 1990, the state repealed the law for exclusive guiding areas on state land. Although, federal lands continue to limit the number of guides that can operate in given areas, guides are not similarly restricted to areas on state land. They have become more mobile and more difficult to monitor year to year. Opening areas on state land has caused a gradual increase in the overall numbers of guides and transporters; in 1991 there were 1,202 guides and transporters operating and in 2000 as of this writing, there were 2,097 (an increase of over 74% from 1991 to 2000). There has been no increase in the number of FWP troopers to monitor this steadily growing commercial industry.

Big game commercial guiding services add to the state economy. Often these services are the only way that nonresident visitors can enjoy hunting and successfully take species such as brown bear, sheep and goat. Guides often employ rural villagers as support personnel adding valuable income to the rural economy. With some guided hunts exceeding \$10,000 each there is a substantial income for guide operations and support businesses. This has created incentives for unlicensed guiding which has been a focus for investigative efforts in 1999 and 2000.

Many of the big game animals these hunters seek are solitary or remotely located. They are vulnerable to those persons who illegally use aircraft or other unlawful methods to take game. Deterring illegal actions sometimes requires undercover operations to catch individuals engaged in the business of breaking Alaska's fish and game laws for profit. These investigations are costly and time consuming.

Uniformed FWP Troopers make most public contacts; the 36,000 miles of coastline and 586,000 square miles of land cannot be effectively patrolled by the limited number of Troopers presently on duty at any given time. It is important to recognize that many criminals view their activity as a business where Alaska's fish and game resources are theirs to exploit for profit. Unless resource criminals are apprehended and punished, these valuable big game animals could be greatly reduced or disappear.

ENFORCEMENT COVERAGE

Although assigned Troopers regularly patrol many important fisheries and hunting areas, there are still too many areas that receive little or no coverage for lack of personnel. For instance, if troopers were not rotated into the eastern Brooks Range for the commercial and sport hunting seasons; there would be no enforcement presence in an area equivalent in size to the Kenai Peninsula.

While additional revenue sources besides the General Fund have supplemented enforcement capabilities, revenue shortfalls adversely impact Fish & Wildlife Protection's ability to manage a proactive enforcement effort. Without swift and effective prosecution and appropriate sentencing of fish and game criminals, it is easy for their resource offenses

to be treated less than adequately in the State criminal justice system. Prosecution of fish and game regulations takes specialized skill, knowledge, experience and motivation. The foundation of deterrence is punishment for serious resource crimes. Without successful prosecution, resource criminals "get away with it" even though they've often been caught in the act.

There is a clear public perception that Alaska's fish and game resources are not being adequately protected. Newspaper editorials, letters to the editor, and public comments repeatedly express concern that many areas in the state do not have enough Fish and Wildlife troopers on the water or in the field. With only 86 funded commissioned FWP troopers statewide it is impossible to contact more than a fraction of the resource user public. In FY2000 alone more than 723,000 licenses, tags, permits and stamps were purchased by individuals allowing them to harvest fish and game. There are more than 1,000 pages of State statutes and regulations governing the use of fish and game in Alaska. These laws are constantly changing and take specialized knowledge and review for effective enforcement.

PERSONNEL

A comparison of the nearest northwestern states shows that Washington and Oregon have a combined land mass 28% of Alaska's size. While these two states have far fewer fish and game resources and roughly one fourth the land mass, they have 279 total wildlife officers compared to Alaska's 86. The FY2002 Governor's budget includes a request for funding for 10 additional FWP troopers and support costs to help address this pressing need.

The Division has 86 funded commissioned troopers in FY2001, 18 of which are eligible for retirement. With 34 post locations and increasing retirements, the volume of employee transfers has grown. This has significantly increased costs for employee transfers. Some one-trooper posts critically need two full-time troopers. Without adequate funding for employee transfers, these remote posts cannot be filled to their authorized staffing level, so retirement or promotions may leave some posts vacant.

OPERATIONAL SUPPORT COSTS

For several years, the Fish & Wildlife Protection budget has been relatively flat. Any unbudgeted cost increases reduce its enforcement capabilities; specifically, the number of troopers in the field. Unbudgeted cost increases include:

- Increased risk management premiums
- Replacement of patrol vehicles that are already extended beyond their useful or safe deployment schedule
- Office, housing and storage space leases
- Upgrades to computers and other law enforcement technology

AIRCRAFT

From the beginning, the Department of Public Safety has utilized trooper pilots and department-owned aircraft. Both the Division of Alaska State Troopers and the Division of Fish and Wildlife Protection rely heavily upon department aircraft and pilots to perform the law enforcement missions and protect natural resources statewide. Many remote locations are not practically accessible by any means other than aircraft. Often the saving of a life, apprehension of a dangerous criminal and investigation of serious resource crimes depends solely upon the availability of State aircraft. Often, FWP aircraft are the primary response vehicle into remote locations such as western Alaska villages. Availability of well maintained, dependable aircraft ensures prompt response times.

In this department's experience, state-owned aircraft are much more economical to operate than leased or chartered aircraft. For example, it costs \$395.00 per hour in direct operating expenses to operate the state-owned King Air to any location. It would cost approximately \$1,000.00 per hour to charter the same aircraft in remote regions, and no King Air is available for charter in the Anchorage area. The department's Jet Ranger helicopter costs approximately half the cost of a chartered helicopter per hour. In the Bethel Region, the department leased an airplane over a period of 23 years. The cost of this lease over the years could have purchased and maintained 10 similar aircraft. The department leased a Piper Navajo for 11 years. Five Navajos could have been purchased and maintained with the money spent on the lease. While cost is a significant factor, it should not be the primary focus. The ability to quickly and confidentially perform law enforcement services for Alaskans is a primary goal.

In 1993, there were 9 aircraft mechanics employed by the Division. Presently only 6 aircraft mechanics are employed due to budget decrease. This results in an ever-increasing number of Division aircraft being sent to local contractors. In harsh Alaskan environments, only the highest maintenance standards are acceptable for safe operations.

VESSELS

In FY2002, the Division will be able to field 19 operational patrol vessels, 25 feet or larger. There are more than 15,000 licensed commercial fishing vessels, thousands of privately owned sport fishing boats, and hundreds of popular coastal areas for hunting, sport fishing, and subsistence fishing in Alaskan waters. The present fleet of 19 patrol vessels and a limited number of boats 24 feet or smaller are aging and of diminished effectiveness for enforcement coverage.

Over the years, this Division has not received sufficient Capital Improvement Project (CIP) budget funds to replace its major vessels. It has had to use innovative approaches not typically used in State government. The Division has been selling, with legislative approval, its older vessels that are no longer economical to operate and maintain. Selling old boats does not bring in much money, especially when compared to the cost for the type of replacement vessels that are needed. New patrol vessels must be fast, economical, able to handle rough seas, and capable of safely boarding other vessels during foul weather.

FWP vessels are often called upon to perform rescues in the worst possible weather conditions. As a result of having to sell old boats to fund purchases of replacement vessels, the fleet has been reduced in average vessel size and effectiveness. The Division has gone from 5 vessels 65 feet or larger to 3 at the present time. The number of smaller vessels has also been reduced because proceeds from their sale are not sufficient to replace them one-for-one.

Without CIP funding for replacement vessels, enforcement capability will be reduced to marginal at best.

Major BRU Accomplishments for FY2000

SPORT FISHING ENFORCEMENT

Fishery disaster declarations in the Yukon/Kuskokwim regions resulted in reduced sport and subsistence fisheries, requiring essential monitoring patrols. Although necessary, these patrols garnered fewer contacts and citations indicating general angler compliance with emergency regulations.

The same was true for other areas and fisheries as well. Poor King Salmon and Sockeye returns to the Kenai River impacted sport fishing seasons and bag limits, and the commercial season. Emergency regulations reduced angler effort and enforcement resulted in fewer observed violations. Extensive patrols of the clam beaches this season, including Cook Inlet and the Katchemak Bay area where Razor clam bag limits were reduced, resulted in citation and warning rates well under expectations. Compliance improved due to similar efforts last season.

The upper Cook Inlet Silver Salmon run exceeded expectations and was significantly improved from recent years. With this healthy late run of Silvers, increased effort by sport and personnel use fishers was noticed. Complicated fishery regulations for Parks Highway fisheries also required an intensity of enforcement. These adjustments provided for fairly consistent violation rates overall.

GENERAL HUNTING ENFORCEMENT

430 hunters in the Koyukuk area passed through the mandatory check station at Ella's Cabin located on the confluence of the Yukon and Koyukuk Rivers. This number was down by 300 hunters from 1999 largely due to the implementation of a drawing permit system for moose hunters. As a result, the number of moose killed was reduced by 100 animals from last year to 279 moose. 96 fewer cows were killed in 2000 than in 1999.

During the past two years there has been a visible increase in the number of moose wasted in the immediate Fairbanks vicinity. This past hunting season there were 14 moose carcasses found that were wasted.

Moose hunting in Game Management Units 13 & 14 was shortened in the fall general hunt and the winter Game Management Unit 14 hunt. The fall hunt was reduced to 20 days with the winter hunt being shortened to 10.

However, with these season reductions, illegal moose kills continued at prior year levels. In some cases violators went to extreme effort to avoid detection. For example, an illegal moose was discovered after closer inspection of the antlers revealed that the skull plate had been broken with a metal plate installed with screws to spread the antler width to 50.5 inches.

Troopers put more effort into enforcing hunting along the Haul Road. This effort uncovered additional violations of the firearm restriction and salvaging all the edible meat requirements. The number of hunters has not increased significantly and the success rate is determined solely by the caribou migrations across the Haul Road.

COMMERCIAL FISHING ENFORCEMENT

Following a State investigation, a Kenai seafood processor was charged in Federal court with conspiracy and illegal halibut purchases. Approximately \$42,000 worth of halibut caught in violation of federal regulations was purchased. An effort was made to alter records to legitimize the purchase. The involved fisherman was sentenced to six months in jail followed by six months of home detention. He was fined \$3,000, forfeited his fishing vessel, and ordered to surrender his Individual Fishing Quotas. The Processor is awaiting trial.

A purse seiner was seized following a creek robbing complaint at Redfish Bay in Southeast Alaska. The F/V Tsiu had set inside the markers of this sensitive salmon fishery. ADF&G described the impact of this violation to Redfish Bay sockeye as devastating. They had observed about 14,000 fish in the closed waters at the head of the bay, very close to their necessary escapement goal. This illegal catch in closed waters resulted in only 1,000 fish left in the bay, raising serious biological and subsistence concerns. It characterizes the importance of an enforcement presence in all fisheries, something current Division resources cannot provide. The vessel was seized and the skipper and seizure are pending in court.

The Division's primary role of law enforcement includes Area M fisheries enforcement, the subject of a continuing heated debate related to fisheries disaster declarations in the Yukon/Kuskokwim regions. In June, three commercial seiners were observed discarding salmon overboard during a commercial fishing period while FWP troopers conducted a stakeout for illegal activity at Popoff Island. The skippers were charged for failure to retain the salmon caught and are awaiting trial. This case validated long-term suspicions of chum dumping in the False Pass region and resulted in formal direction to the Board of Fish to address regulations in the area.

BRISTOL BAY COMMERCIAL SALMON ENFORCEMENT

In 1999, the Division implemented changes to the enforcement effort in the Egegik District and the Dillingham area. This year we continued this practice and added an extra Trooper in Dillingham during the peak of the run and continued to operate two jet skiffs in the Egegik District. With these added resources the Division cited over 200 fishermen for fishing violations, an increase over the 160 cases in 1998, and 157 in 1999. Troopers arrested two fishermen and seized one vessel for fishing without a permit, and one fisherman was arrested twice for this same offense. This was the first year that a permit holder was not allowed to fish Bristol Bay because of the new point system instituted 3 years ago by the Legislature.

WILDLIFE INVESTIGATION BUREAU

This small investigative unit worked closely with other wildlife law enforcement agencies, targeting unlicensed guides - a source of growing concern for the industry. Major investigations undertaken by this unit were recognized and prosecuted at Federal levels resulting in more severe criminal penalties. For example, two Yakutat residents were sentenced to one year and eighteen months respectively, for illegally guiding for and taking Mountain Goats.

In contrast, a nonresident prosecuted in State court was sentenced to ten days with five suspended, fined \$10,000 with \$5,000 suspended and ordered to pay \$5,000 restitution for illegally guiding black bear hunters on Prince of Wales Island. The State investigation determined this illegal guide had taken 11 bears during the 1998 and 1999 seasons.

To help decrease overall waste related cases primarily in western Alaska in the fall of 2000, WIB developed, published and distributed among the public and transporters, the Guide to Correct Field Dressing and Care of Big Game. It is yet too early to determine how helpful this was in improving meat salvage requirements.

STATEWIDE ISSUES

The impact from the Whittier tunnel opening this summer failed to be as great as expected. No noticeable increase in reported violations occurred, although increased access to the area was possible. The northwest part of Prince William Sound was routinely patrolled by the Division's Valdez and Cordova post troopers in patrol skiffs. While there was increased motor vehicle activity no increased resource violations have been noticed to date. Anticipated increased resource user activity may require a permanent presence in the future.

Key Performance Measures for FY2002

Measure: Number of sport fishing violations.
(Developed jointly with Legislature in FY2001.)

Current Status:

First Quarter FY2001: 1,255 angler violations were acted upon.

Benchmark:

FY2000: First quarter 1,229 angler violations were acted upon and the full year had 2,801 angler violations acted upon.

Background and Strategies:

The Division of Fish and Wildlife Protection protects Alaska's wildlife resources by deterring violations or criminal activity through a combination of uniformed patrols, investigations and educational efforts. There are many difficulties associated with resource law enforcement and the Division routinely adjusts to address these challenges in the most productive manner.

Troopers devoted to wildlife law enforcement cannot provide the level of visibility in all fisheries and hunting areas to assure that resource users comply with Fish and Game regulations. Resource user contacts is one way to track basic deterrence which depends on a clear enforcement presence.

Carefully structured regional enforcement programs heighten presence by uniformed patrols in an area one season but target another area the next. Undercover operations might be selected as an enforcement strategy in one problem area, while education might be selected to focus on another area where particularly complex regulations have recently changed.

Measure: Number of hunter contacts made by the division.
(Developed jointly with Legislature in FY2001.)

Current Status:

First Quarter FY2001: 7,880 hunter contacts were made by FWP.

Benchmark:

FY2000: First quarter 9,196 hunter contacts were made by FWP and the full year had 19,164 hunter contacts.

Background and Strategies:

The Division of Fish and Wildlife Protection protects Alaska's wildlife resources by deterring violations or criminal activity through a combination of uniformed patrols, investigations and educational efforts. There are many difficulties associated with resource law enforcement and the Division routinely adjusts to address these challenges in the most productive manner.

Troopers devoted to wildlife law enforcement cannot provide the level of visibility in all fisheries and hunting areas to assure that resource users comply with Fish and Game regulations. Resource user contacts is one way to track basic deterrence which depends on a clear enforcement presence.

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problem area, while education might be selected to focus on another area where particularly complex regulations have recently changed.

Measure: Fish and Wildlife Officers funded.

(Not yet addressed by Legislature.)

Current Status:

The FY2001 budget funded 86 Fish & Wildlife Protection Troopers.

Benchmark:

The FY94 budget funded 80 Fish & Wildlife Protection Troopers.

Background and Strategies:

Tracking State Progress in Priority Areas dictates that this data be kept.

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>
• Number of sport fishing violations.		X			
• Number of hunter contacts made by the division.			X		
• Fish and Wildlife Officers funded.			X		

**Fish and Wildlife Protection
BRU Financial Summary by Component**

All dollars in thousands

	FY2000 Actuals				FY2001 Authorized				FY2002 Governor			
	General Funds	Federal Funds	Other Funds	Total Funds	General Funds	Federal Funds	Other Funds	Total Funds	General Funds	Federal Funds	Other Funds	Total Funds
Formula Expenditures												
None.												
Non-Formula Expenditures												
Enforcement/Investigative Svcs	10,569.3	0.0	588.4	11,157.7	10,679.8	0.0	646.9	11,326.7	12,474.9	0.0	390.9	12,865.8
Director's Office	229.8	0.0	0.0	229.8	259.4	0.0	0.0	259.4	260.4	0.0	0.0	260.4
Aircraft Section	1,426.8	0.0	452.0	1,878.8	1,591.9	0.0	239.0	1,830.9	1,587.3	0.0	343.6	1,930.9
Marine Enforcement	2,522.4	0.0	401.1	2,923.5	2,703.3	0.0	405.3	3,108.6	2,716.2	0.0	406.7	3,122.9
AK Fish & Wildlife Safeguard	15.0	0.0	0.0	15.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Totals	14,763.3	0.0	1,441.5	16,204.8	15,234.4	0.0	1,291.2	16,525.6	17,038.8	0.0	1,141.2	18,180.0

Fish and Wildlife Protection

Proposed Changes in Levels of Service for FY2002

The Division has continued to operate at a minimally acceptable level of enforcement efforts with many areas of the state being unpatrolled or randomly patrolled at best. Any inflationary factors to be considered without additional dollars result in reduced program efforts. Presently,

- Since 1991, the state population has grown from 569,054 to 633,000, the equivalent of a larger city population.
- In FY1991, 380,872 resident and nonresident sporting licenses were sold in Alaska. In FY2000, 465,503 were sold, an increase of over 22% in 10 years.
- In the last decade, Trooper positions have remained essentially flat, and unable to keep pace with a growing state population and the hunting and fishing public.
- Each FWP field trooper has to cover over 7,813 square miles.

END RESULT:

Many commercial fisheries, big game hunting areas, and sport fisheries receive little or no resource enforcement. Both commercial and sport fisheries resources are continuing to grow and this Division must keep pace with the growth. This can only be done through having adequate personnel and modern equipment, which will provide the Division the ability to provide necessary protection of the state's valuable resources.

INCREASED PRESENCE:

In FY2002, incremental funding approval will greatly improve the service level afforded by this Division. 10 FWP Troopers would be strategically placed statewide to bolster present enforcement efforts. The proposed funding will provide personal services and support costs of the personnel in FY2002.

Fish and Wildlife Protection

Summary of BRU Budget Changes by Component

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	15,234.4	0.0	1,291.2	16,525.6
Adjustments which will continue current level of service:				
-Enforcement/Investigative Svcs	158.4	0.0	-256.0	-97.6
-Director's Office	1.0	0.0	0.0	1.0
-Aircraft Section	-4.6	0.0	104.6	100.0
-Marine Enforcement	12.9	0.0	1.4	14.3
Proposed budget increases:				
-Enforcement/Investigative Svcs	1,636.7	0.0	0.0	1,636.7
FY2002 Governor	17,038.8	0.0	1,141.2	18,180.0