

**State of Alaska
FY2003 Governor's Operating Budget**

**Department of Labor and Workforce Development
Fishermens Fund
Component Budget Summary**

Component: Fishermens Fund

Contact: Paul Grossi, Director

Tel: (907) 465-2790 **Fax:** (907) 465-2797 **E-mail:** Paul_Grossi@labor.state.ak.us

Component Mission

Provide assistance with the medical costs of injuries or illnesses due to commercial fishing activities on shore or in state waters.

Component Services Provided

The Fishermen's Fund, established in 1951, provides funds for the care and treatment of Alaska licensed commercial fishermen whose injuries or illnesses are directly connected to operations as fishermen. The Fund is not an insurance program, but an emergency fund payer of last resort.

The Fishermen's Fund revenue is generated through the sales of commercial fishing licenses and permits to both resident and non-residents. Sales of these licenses and permits are designated for the Fishermen's Fund at a fixed percentage (39% effective Jan. 1, 2000) of all commercial fishing licenses sold by all vendors and a fixed amount for all permits issued by the Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission.

Component Goals and Strategies

1) REDUCE THE FINANCIAL BURDEN OF MEDICAL EXPENSES ON FISHERMEN BY MAKING THEM AWARE OF PROGRAM BENEFITS AND REQUIREMENTS.

- The Fishermen's Fund Administrator and/or Council Chair plan on meeting with fishermen, medical providers, harbor masters and other interest groups a minimum of five times during FY2003 to discuss this program and answer questions.

- As a result of recent Council recommendations, the Fishermen and Physician's Reports of Injury/Illness will continue to be revised and simplified. In the past, these forms have presented some confusion in how they were to be completed and who was to complete them. This component is striving to provide more simplified versions of these forms.

2) PROVIDE BENEFITS IN A COST EFFECTIVE, TIMELY MANNER.

- Develop and begin to implement an electronic information handling system which will be compatible with electronic filing.

- Continue to improve communications with insurance carriers and medical providers through discussion and timely processing of provider payments.

- Continue to monitor and attempt to improve response time to fishermen and providers by improving procedures and focusing staff responsibilities to more effectively utilize resources.

Key Component Issues for FY2002 – 2003

-This component has been using an outdated computerized database and claims handling system that is becoming obsolete and will soon be unsupported. Consequently existing program resources are being applied to developing a new claims handling system.

- Fishermen continue to either be unaware of this program or not understand the requirements of the program and the benefits for which they may be eligible. Meetings and discussions are scheduled and a toll free telephone line will be continued.

- Medical providers continue to be ill informed regarding the submission and completion of claims. As a result the Fishermen's Fund must continue to make an effort to educate and increase communications with various providers

throughout the State.

Major Component Accomplishments in 2001

- In FY01, this component continued the revisions of the Fishermen and Physician's Reports of Injury/Illness form and informational booklet in an ongoing effort to simplify this information for both the fishermen and the providers.
- In FY01 the Fisherman's Fund decreased the amount of time to process claims.

Statutory and Regulatory Authority

AS 23.35
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Fishermens Fund
Component Financial Summary

All dollars in thousands

Non-Formula Program:	FY2001 Actuals	FY2002 Authorized	FY2003 Governor
Component Expenditures:			
71000 Personal Services	126.1	147.4	155.5
72000 Travel	6.9	18.2	18.2
73000 Contractual	69.9	263.1	259.4
74000 Supplies	5.5	5.7	9.7
75000 Equipment	3.7	4.0	0.0
76000 Land/Buildings	0.0	0.0	0.0
77000 Grants, Claims	534.3	869.4	869.4
78000 Miscellaneous	0.0	0.0	0.0
Expenditure Totals	746.4	1,307.8	1,312.2
Funding Sources:			
1032 Disabled Fishermans Reserve Account	746.4	1,307.8	1,312.2
Funding Totals	746.4	1,307.8	1,312.2

Estimated Revenue Collections

Description	Master Revenue Account	FY2001 Actuals	FY2002 Authorized	FY2002 Cash Estimate	FY2003 Governor	FY2004 Forecast
Unrestricted Revenues						
Disabled Fishermans Reserve Account	51080	746.4	1,307.8	1,180.8	1,312.2	1,189.2
Unrestricted Total		746.4	1,307.8	1,180.8	1,312.2	1,189.2
Restricted Revenues						
None.		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Restricted Total		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Total Estimated Revenues		746.4	1,307.8	1,180.8	1,312.2	1,189.2

Fishermens Fund

Proposed Changes in Levels of Service for FY2003

This component intends to continue to increase overall effectiveness and industry awareness of the program through presentations by the Administrator and Council Chair at major industry symposiums and meetings with fishermen organizations, medical providers and interest groups.

The component is also expanding telephonic and electronic communication between the Fund and medical providers to increase efficiencies related to the processing of claims.

Summary of Component Budget Changes

From FY2002 Authorized to FY2003 Governor

All dollars in thousands

	<u>General Funds</u>	<u>Federal Funds</u>	<u>Other Funds</u>	<u>Total Funds</u>
FY2002 Authorized	0.0	0.0	1,307.8	1,307.8
Adjustments which will continue current level of service:				
-Year 3 Labor Costs - Net Change from FY2002	0.0	0.0	4.4	4.4
FY2003 Governor	0.0	0.0	1,312.2	1,312.2

Fishermens Fund

Personal Services Information

	Authorized Positions		Personal Services Costs	
	<u>FY2002</u> <u>Authorized</u>	<u>FY2003</u> <u>Governor</u>		
Full-time	3	3	Annual Salaries	113,228
Part-time	0	0	COLA	2,925
Nonpermanent	0	0	Premium Pay	0
			Annual Benefits	44,118
			<i>Less 3.00% Vacancy Factor</i>	(4,808)
			Lump Sum Premium Pay	0
Totals	3	3	Total Personal Services	155,463

Position Classification Summary

Job Class Title	Anchorage	Fairbanks	Juneau	Others	Total
Worker Comp Off II	0	0	1	0	1
Worker Comp Technician	0	0	2	0	2
Totals	0	0	3	0	3