

State of Alaska FY2004 Governor's Operating Budget

Department of Natural Resources Office of Habitat Management & Permitting Component Budget Summary

Component: Office of Habitat Management & Permitting

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Component Mission

The mission of the Habitat component is to protect Alaska's valuable fish and wildlife resources and their habitats as Alaska's population and economy continue to expand. This mission is achieved by identifying and protecting important commercial, sport, subsistence and other fisheries through timely permit review and approvals for projects affecting anadromous waterbodies and fish-bearing waters, and through implementation of Alaska's Coastal Management Program, the Forest Resources and Practices Act, and review of proposed development and land use plans for impacts on fish and wildlife populations and their users.

Component Services Provided

Review applications and provide approval, denial, or conditioning of permits for activities in anadromous waterbodies and fish-bearing waters; provide fish, wildlife, and habitat expertise to protect important fish and wildlife habitat during project planning, design, and construction stages.

Conduct pre- and post-construction monitoring of authorized projects, and identification of unauthorized projects.

Maintain and revise the Catalog of Waters Important for the Spawning, Rearing, or Migration of Anadromous Fishes.

Provide project reviews and recommendations on projects authorized under other agencies' regulatory or permitting authorities.

Review proposed operational timber harvest activities, conduct pre- and post- harvest field inspections, and work cooperatively with timber operators and other governmental agencies on projects to benefit fish and wildlife habitat.

Comment on and participate in state onshore and nearshore oil and gas leasing and federal offshore (OCS) and onshore leasing.

Component Goals and Strategies

Implement the Anadromous Fish Act and the Fishway Act consistently across the state to maintain the productivity of anadromous fish habitat and efficient fish passage to sustain subsistence, personal use, sport, and commercial fisheries in Alaska.

Through both regulatory and non-regulatory means, seek cooperative methods to protect Alaska's valuable fish and wildlife resources while providing for the economic health and growth of the state. The division does this by conducting cooperative research to identify successful mitigation and restoration techniques for industrial and community development; by identifying valuable fish and wildlife resources in advance of development activity so that protection measures can be developed on a least-cost basis; and by reviewing proposed development and land use plans for impacts on fish and wildlife populations and their users.

Review all permit applications in a timely manner and issue, condition, or deny permits in order to ensure proper protection of anadromous fish and their habitat and to provide for the unobstructed passage of fish.

Work with applicants prior to project submittals to ensure incorporation of environmental data into the project design and to include, where feasible, opportunities for fish, wildlife, and habitat restoration. Also, conduct field inspections for specific projects collecting biological and physical data prior to, during, and after project completion to assess biological change, evaluate effectiveness of mitigation, determine compliance with permits, and identify remedial work required.

Protect important fish and wildlife habitat, including that which supports subsistence, commercial and sport salmon and other fisheries, by providing technical assistance to applicants regarding proper fish habitat protection measures, through timely permit decisions, and through cooperative projects with local governments and public and private development interests that are based on sound science and construction methods.

Develop general permits for various types of activities that expedite permitting timelines while still ensuring the proper protection of anadromous fish resources.

Implement the standards of the Forest Resources and Practices Act (FPA) to minimize adverse impacts from timber harvesting on commercial, sport, and subsistence fish and wildlife resources, and ensure maintenance of sustained yields of fish and wildlife resources for sport, subsistence, and commercial fishers and sport and subsistence hunters. Review forest practices notifications, variation requests, forest land use plans, area-wide Five Year Schedules of Timber Sales, Environmental Assessments for federal timber-related actions or any other proposed forest management planning activities and make recommendations that will protect fish and wildlife resources and maintain water quality. Work cooperatively with private landowners, timber owners, and timber operators to protect anadromous and resident fish and wildlife. Conduct Best Management Practice (BMP) compliance and effectiveness monitoring on forest practices activities to ensure that fish and wildlife habitat, as well as water quality is protected and that fish passage is being provided. Conduct advanced fish habitat identification in watersheds where forest practices activities are anticipated in the near future.

Participate in state onshore and nearshore oil and gas leasing and federal offshore (OCS) and onshore leasing. Review lease sale proposals, provide or comment on fish and wildlife resource information, evaluate potential environmental effects of proposed sales, and recommend leasing strategies and mitigation measures to avoid or minimize possible adverse impacts.

On public lands, minimize adverse impacts of commercial forestry, mining, industrial and urban development, transportation infrastructure, and tourism on fish and wildlife habitats and public uses of fish and wildlife. On private lands, minimize adverse impacts of commercial forestry, mining, industrial and urban development, transportation infrastructure, and tourism on fish and wildlife, to the extent required by law.

Ensure coastal projects and developments are consistent with coastal district plans and standards prepared under the Alaska Coastal Management Program and with state fish, wildlife, and habitat laws.

Accomplish these goals through: supervision and technical training of all agency staff that are reviewing development proposals to ensure quality control; field reviews of proposed developments and post-construction conditions; technical assistance to permit applicants; interagency collaboration to ensure a coherent, sensible final project design; and budget accountability.

Key Component Issues for FY2003 – 2004

Funding for permitting and project monitoring services continues to lag behind the rate and complexity of development occurring and projected to occur in Alaska. Thoroughness and timeliness of services provided is vital to the maintenance of the state's fish and wildlife resources. The state's fish and wildlife expertise has become even more critical as funding for other state agencies' permitting and review programs has been reduced and they have been forced to relinquish certain environmental programs to the federal government.

Specific issues in this component include:

- Effects on fish passage or productivity of anadromous streams from placement of culverts, dams, and bridges; bank stabilization, water withdrawal, utility construction, and transportation projects; urbanization; and gravel and placer mining in floodplains.
- Effects of increased road and airport construction, all-terrain vehicle traffic, oil/gas exploration and development, and recreational developments.

- Fish and wildlife impacts from pipeline construction and operation activities on the North Slope and in the Cook Inlet and Nenana Basins.
- Maintenance of water quality and fish habitat in streams in urbanizing areas and at existing and potential hardrock mines.
- Maintenance of fish and wildlife resources and habitat and their use in relation to timber harvests, mining activities, and oil and gas development activities.
- The location and design of timber harvest units, roads, and log transfer and storage facilities, particularly in key areas that are used by fish and wildlife and which are increasingly impacted by timber harvest and/or urbanization.
- Maintenance of coastal habitat and opportunities for public use and access as tideland development -- particularly harbors, docks, aquatic farms and other water-dependent activity -- increases in areas of productive habitat or areas important for existing uses of fish or wildlife.

Major Component Accomplishments in 2002

The Office of Habitat Management and Permitting is a new component for FY04, established under Executive Order 107 as a transfer from the Department of Fish & Game. Accomplishments in 2002 are reported in Fish & Game's budget.

Statutory and Regulatory Authority

AS 16.05.840	Fishway Required
AS 16.05.870	Protection of Fish and Game
AS 41.17	Alaska Forest Resources and Practices Act
AS46.40	Alaska Coastal Management Program
5AAC 95.010-990	Protection of Fish and Game Habitat
11AAC 95	Alaska Forest Resources and Practices
6AAC 80.130	Habitats
18AAC 70	Water Quality Standards

Office of Habitat Management & Permitting
Component Financial Summary

All dollars in thousands

	FY2002 Actuals	FY2003 Authorized	FY2004 Governor
Non-Formula Program:			
Component Expenditures:			
71000 Personal Services	0.0	0.0	2,467.5
72000 Travel	0.0	0.0	100.0
73000 Contractual	0.0	0.0	857.5
74000 Supplies	0.0	0.0	100.0
75000 Equipment	0.0	0.0	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	0.0	0.0	3,525.0
Funding Sources:			
1002 Federal Receipts	0.0	0.0	25.0
1004 General Fund Receipts	0.0	0.0	1,700.0
1007 Inter-Agency Receipts	0.0	0.0	1,200.0
1108 Statutory Designated Program Receipts	0.0	0.0	600.0
Funding Totals	0.0	0.0	3,525.0

Office of Habitat Management & Permitting

Proposed Changes in Levels of Service for FY2004

The Office of Habitat Management and Permitting is a new component for FY04, established under Executive Order 107 as a transfer from the Department of Fish & Game.

Summary of Component Budget Changes

From FY2003 Authorized to FY2004 Governor

All dollars in thousands

	<u>General Funds</u>	<u>Federal Funds</u>	<u>Other Funds</u>	<u>Total Funds</u>
FY2003 Authorized	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Adjustments which will continue current level of service:				
-Executive Order 107 - Transfer from Department of Fish & Game	1,700.0	25.0	1,632.0	3,357.0
-Executive Order 107 - Transfer from Department of Fish & Game	0.0	0.0	168.0	168.0
FY2004 Governor	1,700.0	25.0	1,800.0	3,525.0

Office of Habitat Management & Permitting

Personal Services Information

	Authorized Positions		Personal Services Costs	
	<u>FY2003</u> <u>Authorized</u>	<u>FY2004</u> <u>Governor</u>		
Full-time	0	34	Annual Salaries	1,895,177
Part-time	0	3	Premium Pay	3,411
Nonpermanent	0	0	Annual Benefits	645,430
			<i>Less 3.01% Vacancy Factor</i>	(76,518)
			Lump Sum Premium Pay	0
Totals	0	37	Total Personal Services	2,467,500

Position Classification Summary

Job Class Title	Anchorage	Fairbanks	Juneau	Others	Total
Administrative Assistant	1	1	1	0	3
Administrative Clerk II	1	0	0	3	4
Administrative Manager II	0	0	1	0	1
Dep Dir Fish & Game	0	0	1	0	1
Division Director	1	0	0	0	1
Habitat Biologist I	1	0	0	0	1
Habitat Biologist II	2	3	2	1	8
Habitat Biologist III	6	2	1	4	13
Habitat Biologist IV	2	2	1	0	5
Totals	14	8	7	8	37