

Vessel and Aircraft Repair and Maintenance**FY2004 Request: \$300,000****Reference No: 30129****AP/AL:** Appropriation**Project Type:** Renovation and Remodeling**Category:** Natural Resources**Location:** Statewide**Contact:** Doug Mecum**House District:** Statewide (HD 1-40)**Contact Phone:** (907)465-4210**Estimated Project Dates:** 07/01/2003 - 06/30/2008**Brief Summary and Statement of Need:**

This project will provide funding to maintain the department's research vessels and aircraft, which are used to support fishery monitoring efforts and stock assessment programs. Maintenance work to be done includes replacing the gensets, sandblast and paint, overhaul engines, general yard work and inspection, and replacing fishing gear and aircraft manuals. A portion of this CIP will be used to replace the O'Kisutch, an unstaffed vessel used in SE Alaska.

Funding:	FY2004	FY2005	FY2006	FY2007	FY2008	FY2009	Total
Gen Fund	\$300,000	\$300,000	\$300,000	\$300,000	\$300,000	\$300,000	\$1,800,000
Total:	\$300,000	\$300,000	\$300,000	\$300,000	\$300,000	\$300,000	\$1,800,000

<input type="checkbox"/> State Match Required	<input type="checkbox"/> One-Time Project	<input type="checkbox"/> Phased - new	<input type="checkbox"/> Phased - underway	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> On-Going
0% = Minimum State Match % Required		<input type="checkbox"/> Amendment	<input type="checkbox"/> Mental Health Bill	

Operating & Maintenance Costs:

	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Staff</u>
Project Development:	0	0
Ongoing Operating:	0	0
One-Time Startup:	0	0
Totals:	0	0

Additional Information / Prior Funding History:

This is an annual request which has received prior funding in order for the department to maintain its research vessels and aircraft in a safe operating condition. Prior funding for the past five years is as follows: FY2003 \$300.0, FY2002 \$450.0, FY2001 \$200.0, FY2000 \$150.0, and FY1999 \$250.0.

Project Description/Justification:

Major maintenance work will be performed on the division's large vessels (R/V Medeia, R/V Montague (currently seeking a replacement vessel), R/V Resolution, R/V Kittiwake III and R/V K-HI-C) and aircraft. These vessels and aircraft support fishery monitoring efforts and are extensively involved in salmon, herring, groundfish, and shellfish stock assessment programs contained in the department's budget. The vessels and aircraft are used by other divisions in the department, and the Department of Public Safety to carry out their operational responsibilities.

Annual maintenance of the vessels and aircraft is necessary to maintain their longevity and protect the state's investment. Some examples of work are: replace genset; sandblast and paint; general yard work and inspection; engine overhauls; replacing fishing gear and aircraft manuals. If it becomes necessary, some of these funds might be used for unanticipated replacement of other smaller unstaffed vessels or large maintenance projects on division aircraft.

The fishery monitoring and stock assessment programs carried out by these vessels and aircraft are critical to the division's ability to meet its constitutional mandate to manage the state's fishery resources for sustained yield. The projects funded by this request will ensure that the vessels and aircraft can continue to carry out their missions, as well as ensure the health and safety of the skippers and crew.

Commercial fishing is the state's largest private sector employer. The programs supported by these vessels and aircraft

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ensure the continuation of commercial fisheries, and thus the jobs of those involved in the industry.

A portion of this CIP request (\$100.0) would also be used to purchase a replacement of the M/V O'Kisutch, a 32 foot fiberglass vessel purchased new for the department around the time of statehood. The vessel is used primarily to transport and house field technicians who conduct pink and chum salmon surveys on marine and fresh waters, conduct purse seine management activities including on-the grounds observation of fisheries, moving and replacing regulatory markers prior to open fishing periods, and interviewing purse seine skippers. The information gathered is vital to the effective management of commercial salmon fisheries in the Sitka area. The vessel is used extensively in the Sitka management area in support of salmon management every year. Unfortunately the vessel and its engine are aging, and vessel deficiencies are serious enough to compromise its effectiveness at fulfilling its mission. Replacing this vessel with a new faster and smaller boat is the most cost-effective means of providing adequate coverage and extending the effectiveness of the Sitka field crew.