

**State of Alaska
FY2004 Governor's Operating Budget**

**Department of Fish and Game
Southeast Region Fisheries Management
Component Budget Summary**

Component: Southeast Region Fisheries Management

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Component Mission

The mission of the Division of Commercial Fisheries is to manage, protect, rehabilitate, enhance, and develop fisheries and aquatic plant resources in the interest of the economy, consistent with the sustained yield principle and subject to allocations through public regulatory processes.

Component Services Provided

The fishery resources of Southeast Alaska are diverse, widespread and abundant. The region extends from Cape Suckling to Dixon Entrance, encompasses about 62,000 sq miles and has 11,000 miles of shoreline. The region actively manages commercial, personal use and subsistence fisheries for 40 species of salmon, herring, shellfish, invertebrates and groundfish. There are approximately 10,400 commercial fishing permits and 3,800 personal use and subsistence permits issued each year (ten-year average). Commercial fishing accounts for about 40 percent of the private sector income in the region. The mission of the region is to ensure that the region's fishery resources are managed on a sustained yield basis and that Board of Fishery regulations, North Pacific Fishery Management Council regulations and Pacific Salmon Treaty obligations are achieved. To accomplish this requires that an active program of fishery research and management is carried out through the region's area offices located in Yakutat, Haines, Juneau, Petersburg, Wrangell, Sitka, Ketchikan and Craig and aboard the region's two large research vessels.

Fishery research in the region focuses on obtaining information about the distribution, abundance, productivity and ecological relationships of these 40 species needed to set annual harvest guidelines that will ensure sustainability. Because funding for research is severely limited, priorities are set for limited funds in consultation with stakeholders, Board of Fisheries, federal agencies and international cooperators. The types of programs undertaken include:

- For salmon stocks, enumerating the annual harvests by time, area, gear, age and stock; and counting the number (by aerial or foot surveys, by weirs or by mark-recapture programs) of fish in spawning escapements, and the age of those fish.
- For red king crab, estimating the annual abundance, size and age composition of the population by conducting pot surveys aboard the R/V Media.
- For herring, estimating the annual abundance, age, sex and size compositions of spawning stocks by conducting aerial surveys, spawning ground sampling and egg deposition surveys using divers, and forecasting annual abundance from observed spawning escapement and age and size composition data and estimates of recruitment, growth, maturation and natural mortality.
- For sablefish, data collected during longline and pot surveys aboard chartered industry vessels, together with mark-recapture estimates used to estimate exploitable biomass, form the basis for estimating the annual abundance, size and age of the population and set annual quotas.
- For demersal shelf rockfish, estimating the exploitable biomass, and biological composition of the population through habitat based assessments including submersible line transect surveys, longline surveys and port sampling programs.
- For lingcod and black rockfish, researching distribution and movement and biological composition of the population through mark-recapture studies, hook and line surveys, and port sampling.
- For sea urchins, geoduck clams and sea cucumbers, estimating the annual abundance by conducting line transect surveys using divers, with vessel support from the R/V Sundance.

- For Tanner crab, pot surveys have been conducted in recent years to develop an index of abundance, size and age composition of the populations.

The region develops and implements sustainable fisheries policies and practices by:

- Developing biological management objectives (e.g. salmon escapement goals, minimum biomass thresholds and estimates of production surplus to future reproduction needs).
- Developing harvest management plans (e.g. target harvest rates, time area sex restrictions, size limits, gear specifications) needed to achieve biological management objectives of the target species and incidentally caught species.
- Promulgating, publishing and distributing daily fishing regulations describing where, when and how fishing is allowed that are timely, procedurally correct, prevent overfishing and implement or complement Board of Fisheries, Pacific Salmon Treaty or North Pacific Fishery Management Council regulations.

The region establishes the annual allowable harvest based on annual estimates of the distribution, abundance and productivity of these living resources. Insufficient fiscal resources to carry out this mission requires that level of detail priorities be set for obtaining the stock status information needed to set maximum sustainable harvest levels. When stock status information is not available, conservative annual catch limits are set based on historic harvest data.

Preseason planning and public participation in the management process occurs through local advisory committees, the Alaska Board of Fisheries, Pacific Salmon Commission, North Pacific Fishery Management Council, National Park Service, federal Regional Advisory Councils, and numerous Industry Task Forces.

Component Goals and Strategies

The goals and strategies for the Southeast Region Fisheries Management component are to manage the commercial, subsistence and personal use fisheries in Southeast Alaska and Yakutat in a manner that provides for sustained yield, public participation in the regulatory process and is consistent with state, federal, and international law.

In addition to the division's main mission, the Southeast Region Fisheries Management Component's goals are as follows:

- To determine the distribution, abundance and productivity of fishery resources in Southeast Alaska and Yakutat in order to set allowable annual harvests.
- To manage the fisheries in-season so as to achieve, but not exceed, the annual harvest limits.
- To participate in the preseason management process of the Alaska Board of Fisheries, Pacific Salmon Commission, North Pacific Fishery Management Council, National Park Service and Federal Subsistence Board.

Key Component Issues for FY2003 – 2004

Key issues in this component include insufficient ongoing fiscal resources to determine the distribution, abundance and productivity of Tanner crab, golden king crab, dungeness crab, all shrimp species, lingcod, rockfish, Pacific cod, and several salmon stocks. Determination of these factors is needed to set biologically based harvest limits.

There is a lack of fiscal resources to participate in federal management of subsistence fisheries. Existing staff have the additional burden of having to review federal management plans and proposals, in addition to their regular assigned work.

There is a lack of fiscal resources to try to understand the reason for collapse and to develop rebuilding plans for the following fisheries in the region: Yakutat dungeness crab, Yakutat Tanner crab, and abalone.

Major Component Accomplishments in 2002

The fishery resources of Southeast Alaska are diverse and abundant. There are 2,993 rivers in the region that produce one or more of the five species of Pacific salmon that support commercial troll, purse seine, drift gill net, set gill net, personal use and subsistence fisheries; the recent ten-year average annual harvest has been approximately 66 million fish.

Fourteen stocks of Pacific herring support commercial frozen bait, sac-roe and spawn-on-kelp, fresh bait and subsistence fisheries that harvest about 20 million pounds per year.

Commercial and personal use fisheries harvest approximately 0.3 million lbs./yr. of red king crab, 0.3 million lbs./yr. of golden king crab, 1.8 million lbs./yr. of Tanner crab and 3.9 million lbs./yr. of dungeness crab. Trawl shrimp fisheries harvest about 2.2 million lbs/yr, and pot fisheries harvest about 0.7 million lbs/yr. Dive fisheries harvest about 2.6 million lbs./yr. of red sea urchins, 1.1 million lbs./yr. of sea cucumbers and 0.2 million lbs./yr. of geoduck clams.

Commercial longline, jig, and dinglebar groundfish fisheries harvest about 4 million lbs/yr of sablefish, 2 million lbs/yr of rockfish, 0.5 million lbs/yr of Pacific cod and 0.5 million lbs/yr of lingcod.

Within fiscal constraints, the division sets annual harvest objectives based on annual distribution, abundance and productivity so as to achieve sustained yield of the region's commercial, subsistence and personal use fisheries.

The division manages the region's commercial, subsistence and personal use fisheries so as to achieve but not exceed annual harvest targets.

Statutory and Regulatory Authority

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Southeast Region Fisheries Management
Component Financial Summary

All dollars in thousands

	FY2002 Actuals	FY2003 Authorized	FY2004 Governor
Non-Formula Program:			
Component Expenditures:			
71000 Personal Services	3,507.5	4,093.3	3,843.4
72000 Travel	125.8	139.5	109.5
73000 Contractual	891.1	853.1	884.9
74000 Supplies	521.3	386.1	428.1
75000 Equipment	101.8	40.0	40.0
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	5,147.5	5,512.0	5,305.9
Funding Sources:			
1002 Federal Receipts	460.4	542.4	547.7
1003 General Fund Match	377.7	377.3	377.3
1004 General Fund Receipts	3,779.0	3,941.2	3,729.5
1109 Test Fisheries Receipts	530.4	651.1	651.4
Funding Totals	5,147.5	5,512.0	5,305.9

**Southeast Region Fisheries Management
Proposed Changes in Levels of Service for FY2004**

See Proposed Changes in Levels of Service for FY2004 in the Commercial Fisheries BRU narrative.

**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	4,318.5	542.4	651.1	5,512.0
Adjustments which will continue current level of service:				
-Transfer In GF from HQ Fisheries Management Component, ADN 11-3-0134	4.5	0.0	0.0	4.5
-Annualize FY2003 COLA Increase for General Government, Confidential and Supervisory Bargaining Units	0.0	5.3	0.3	5.6
Proposed budget decreases:				
-Decrement General Fund	-216.2	0.0	0.0	-216.2
FY2004 Governor	4,106.8	547.7	651.4	5,305.9

Southeast Region Fisheries Management

Personal Services Information

	Authorized Positions		Personal Services Costs	
	<u>FY2003</u> <u>Authorized</u>	<u>FY2004</u> <u>Governor</u>		
Full-time	53	52	Annual Salaries	2,827,973
Part-time	67	67	Premium Pay	134,624
Nonpermanent	0	0	Annual Benefits	1,094,200
			<i>Less 5.26% Vacancy Factor</i>	(213,397)
			Lump Sum Premium Pay	0
Totals	120	119	Total Personal Services	3,843,400

Position Classification Summary

Job Class Title	Anchorage	Fairbanks	Juneau	Others	Total
Accounting Clerk II	0	0	2	0	2
Accounting Tech I	0	0	1	0	1
Administrative Clerk II	0	0	0	4	4
Administrative Clerk III	0	0	0	3	3
Administrative Manager I	0	0	1	0	1
Administrative Supervisor	0	0	0	2	2
Aircraft Pilot I	0	0	1	0	1
Analyst/Programmer IV	0	0	1	0	1
Biometrician II	0	0	2	0	2
Boat Officer I	0	0	1	0	1
Boat Officer II	0	0	1	0	1
Boat Officer III	0	0	1	1	2
Boat Officer IV	0	0	1	1	2
F&G Regional Spvr	0	0	1	0	1
F&W Technician II	0	0	3	25	28
F&W Technician III	0	0	7	17	24
F&W Technician IV	0	0	0	3	3
F&W Technician V	0	0	0	1	1
Fishery Biologist I	0	0	5	3	8
Fishery Biologist II	0	0	6	10	16
Fishery Biologist III	0	0	6	6	12
Fishery Biologist IV	0	0	3	0	3
Totals	0	0	43	76	119