

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

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

Component: Westward Region Fisheries Management

Contact: Robert D. Mecum, Division Director

Tel: (907) 465-4210 **Fax:** (907) 465-2604 **E-mail:** Doug_Mecum@fishgame.state.ak.us

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 Westward Region is responsible for management of existing commercial, subsistence, and personal use fisheries; the rehabilitation and enhancement of selected fishery resources; and the development of new fisheries for approximately one-quarter of the State of Alaska. The region also plays a major role in the management of shellfish and groundfish fisheries in federal waters of the 200-mile Exclusive Economic Zone.

The Westward Region provides an array of supervisory, administrative, coordinating, and support services for the Division of Commercial Fisheries program. The region is responsible for regulatory management of commercial fisheries worth over \$250 million in ex-vessel value.

The Westward Region finfish fisheries extend from Kodiak to the Aleutian Islands and along both sides of the Alaska Peninsula. These fisheries commonly account for about 12 percent of the state's salmon production and about 15 percent of the state's herring production. Westward Region commercial shellfish fisheries which extend even further, into Bristol Bay and the Bering Sea, are commonly worth in excess of \$165 million annually.

The fisheries comprise a complex and vast array of fish species, geographical locations, fishing gear, types of users and uses of the resource. There are five species of salmon, ten species of crab, four species of shrimp, five species of clams, about eighteen major species of groundfish, and a number of miscellaneous shellfish species. There are approximately nineteen different types of gear normally used and some fish are harvested for multiple uses and are subject to separate and distinct fisheries.

The following are some of the tasks carried out by the region in providing its management services:

- Development of management plans.
- Collection of resource information, such as life histories, abundance, and distribution.
- Collection of fisheries information, such as harvest by gear type, species, stock and location, number of units of gear fished, time fished, and fleet dynamics.
- Determination of reproductive needs and allowable harvest.
- Manipulation of the fisheries inseason by time and area, to attain reproductive and harvest goals.
- Dissemination of information to the public. This includes fisheries information, regulations, harvest policies, management plans, as well as highly technical reports based on the results of applied research programs.
- Operation of six area offices, 25 data collection field camps, two research vessels and four aircraft.

Component Goals and Strategies

The goals and strategies of this component are to optimize, over the long term, the harvest of fish by those commercial, subsistence, and personal use fisheries over which the division has management authority. Optimal production will provide for an economically healthy industry and produce an environment conducive to the development of new fisheries,

as well as provide for traditional consumptive needs through subsistence and personal use fisheries.

Key Component Issues for FY2003 – 2004

Providing for new and developing fisheries is a key challenge while maintaining a core program on existing fisheries. In prior years funding was eliminated for collapsed shellfish fisheries. As those fisheries recover, funding for proper management will place additional demands on existing Westward Region budgets. As concerns for threatened and endangered marine mammals mount (e.g., for Steller sea lions, and potentially sea otters and harbor seals), additional attention will need to be paid to interactions with commercial fisheries. In addition, attempts to streamline the salmon industry, whether through cooperative fisheries or other cost-saving mechanisms, will require innovative adaptation in existing management programs.

Major Component Accomplishments in 2002

The Westward Region has managed all personal use, subsistence and commercial fisheries for sustained yield, subject to Alaska Board of Fisheries regulatory management plans. This entailed collecting resource abundance information, setting harvest limits and documenting fisheries in annual reports. Some new techniques were tested (e.g., floating weirs and remote video cameras for estimating salmon escapement), efforts to gather an effective baseline of genetic standards for sockeye salmon stock identification were continued, and an expanded research program was instituted for Bering Sea crab fisheries.

Division staff interacted with the public and provided support to the Alaska Board of Fisheries, as well as to the North Pacific Fishery Management Council, the National Marine Fisheries Service and various fishery enforcement agencies.

Statutory and Regulatory Authority

AS 16 Fish and Game
5 AAC

Westward Region Fisheries Management
Component Financial Summary

All dollars in thousands

	FY2002 Actuals	FY2003 Authorized	FY2004 Governor
Non-Formula Program:			
Component Expenditures:			
71000 Personal Services	4,626.7	5,524.8	5,090.5
72000 Travel	188.4	202.0	194.0
73000 Contractual	824.3	1,599.7	838.3
74000 Supplies	722.5	570.9	588.4
75000 Equipment	34.2	25.0	25.0
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	6,396.1	7,922.4	6,736.2
Funding Sources:			
1004 General Fund Receipts	5,598.2	5,687.5	5,433.1
1109 Test Fisheries Receipts	797.9	2,234.9	1,303.1
Funding Totals	6,396.1	7,922.4	6,736.2

**Westward 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	5,687.5	0.0	2,234.9	7,922.4
Adjustments which will continue current level of service:				
-Annualize FY2003 COLA Increase for General Government, Confidential and Supervisory Bargaining Units	0.0	0.0	15.7	15.7
Proposed budget decreases:				
-Decrement Test Fish Authority	0.0	0.0	-947.5	-947.5
-Decrement General Fund	-254.4	0.0	0.0	-254.4
FY2004 Governor	5,433.1	0.0	1,303.1	6,736.2

Westward 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	50	Annual Salaries	3,694,371
Part-time	87	81	Premium Pay	314,801
Nonpermanent	6	6	Annual Benefits	1,394,796
			<i>Less 5.80% Vacancy Factor</i>	(313,468)
			Lump Sum Premium Pay	0
Totals	146	137	Total Personal Services	5,090,500

Position Classification Summary

Job Class Title	Anchorage	Fairbanks	Juneau	Others	Total
Accounting Clerk II	0	0	0	1	1
Accounting Tech I	0	0	0	1	1
Administrative Clerk II	0	0	0	2	2
Administrative Clerk III	0	0	0	4	4
Administrative Manager I	0	0	0	1	1
Aircraft Pilot I	0	0	0	3	3
Biometrician I	0	0	0	1	1
Biometrician III	0	0	0	1	1
Boat Officer II	0	0	0	1	1
Boat Officer III	0	0	0	2	2
Boat Officer IV	0	0	0	1	1
F&G Regional Spvr	0	0	0	1	1
F&W Technician I	0	0	0	4	4
F&W Technician II	0	0	0	17	17
F&W Technician III	0	0	0	27	27
F&W Technician IV	0	0	0	2	2
Fish & Game Program Tech	0	0	0	1	1
Fishery Biologist I	16	0	0	15	31
Fishery Biologist II	0	0	0	13	13
Fishery Biologist III	0	0	0	13	13
Fishery Biologist IV	0	0	0	4	4
Graduate Intern I	0	0	0	1	1
Maint Spec Bfc Journey I	0	0	0	1	1
Micro/Network Spec II	0	0	0	1	1
Micro/Network Tech II	0	0	0	1	1
Personnel Asst I	0	0	0	1	1
Publications Spec II	0	0	0	1	1
Totals	16	0	0	121	137