

State of Alaska FY2004 Governor's Operating Budget

Department of Fish and Game State Subsistence Component Budget Summary

Component: State Subsistence

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Component Mission

To gather, quantify, evaluate, and report data about uses, users, and methods of subsistence hunting and fishing, and make recommendations on the impacts of federal and state laws and regulations on subsistence uses and users.

Component Services Provided

As mandated in AS16.05.094, the Division of Subsistence is directed to:

- 1) Compile existing data and conduct studies to gather information, including data from subsistence users, on all aspects of the role of subsistence hunting and fishing in the lives of the residents of the state;
- 2) Quantify the amount, nutritional value, and extent of dependence on food acquired through subsistence hunting and fishing;
- 3) Make information gathered available to the public, appropriate agencies, and other organized bodies;
- 4) Assist the department, the Board of Fisheries and Board of Game in determining what uses of fish and game, as well as which users and what methods, should be termed subsistence uses, users, and methods;
- 5) Evaluate the impact of state and federal laws and regulations on subsistence hunting and fishing and, when corrective action is indicated, make recommendations to the department;
- 6) Make recommendations to the Board of Game and Board of Fisheries regarding adoption, amendment and repeal of regulations affecting subsistence hunting and fishing;
- 7) Participate with other divisions in the preparation of statewide and regional management plans so that those plans recognize and incorporate the needs of subsistence users of fish and game.

The division collects and provides information on specific subsistence management issues, including those before the Boards of Fisheries and Game and those pertaining to land management activities by state and federal agencies. The public expects information on subsistence uses to be presented along with information on other uses of fish and wildlife, when allocation and land use decisions are made. The division is the only source in the state for comprehensive, reliable subsistence information on all fish stocks and wildlife populations. The division also provides the public with information about subsistence hunting and fishing regulations, access to the regulatory process, and the differences between the state and federal subsistence programs.

Component Goals and Strategies

- 1) Provide comprehensive, accurate information on subsistence uses of fish and game in selected communities throughout the state. The division was created by the legislature because successful implementation of the state subsistence law would require a reliable database for making subsistence allocation decisions. Research goals are to document and analyze subsistence uses in Alaska, and to provide information to the general public and to a variety of public agencies, organizations, and decision-making bodies. This is the primary function of the division and will be maintained to the maximum extent possible given available funding.
- 2) Implement the state subsistence law. The division has responsibility for implementing the state subsistence law. This involves following and understanding the legal framework for subsistence implementation, advising the commissioner and other department staff on necessary implementation steps, and guiding the Boards of Fisheries and Game through the implementation process. This involves close coordination with the Department of Law. Key elements in the implementation process include action by the boards in making customary and traditional use findings, determining the

amount reasonably necessary to meet subsistence needs and promulgating regulations that provide a reasonable subsistence harvest opportunity.

Key Component Issues for FY2003 – 2004

Dual Subsistence Wildlife Management. The federal government assumed management of subsistence hunting on federal public lands in Alaska on July 1, 1990. Dual wildlife management has increasingly led to different hunting regulations for state and federal subsistence hunts. The Division of Subsistence has been assigned the lead for the department's coordination and liaison functions with the federal subsistence wildlife management program. This work entails tracking the federal board process to comment on proposals; filing requests for reconsideration when federal decisions are counter to factual analysis; identifying management problems to protect the state's wildlife uses and sustained yield; and providing departmental information throughout the process, including litigation.

Subsistence Law Resolution. Attempts to find legal resolutions of the dual management situation and the resumption of state management of fish and wildlife on federal lands are likely to continue as important issues in FY2004. Efforts by the administration and the legislature to regain state management and/or legal decisions could change the present management landscape. Division data and expertise are prepared to be called upon to provide the factual basis and the necessary analysis that may contribute to a legal resolution of the present management impasse.

State Subsistence Law Implementation. The present state subsistence law provides subsistence eligibility to all Alaskans and establishes several non-subsistence use areas in the state. The Division of Subsistence provides a factual basis and analysis of fishing and hunting patterns to support the implementation of the law by the Board of Fisheries and Board of Game. Implementing the present law requires providing information to the boards as they act in several areas: determining customary and traditional uses of fish stocks and wildlife populations; creating regulations that provide a reasonable opportunity for subsistence harvests; and constructing and administering Tier II hunting & fishing procedures when stocks and populations are not sufficient to provide for all subsistence uses. Division data provide the basis for Boards of Fisheries and Game deliberations regarding customary and traditional use determinations and subsistence regulations.

Major Component Accomplishments in 2002

Reports Completed. Division staff completed seven technical papers, 11 special reports and CD-ROMs, a video, as well as the periodic updates to the Community Profile Database, the Map Catalog Database, and the Historic Salmon Harvest Database. The technical papers and special projects reports included subsistence harvest and use profiles in selected communities, resource-specific analyses of harvests of salmon, marine mammals and migratory birds throughout the state, and Exxon Valdez oil spill impact related studies.

Fish and Game Boards Support. The division provided information to the boards as they deliberated on numerous subsistence proposals and reviewed customary and traditional use and amounts reasonably necessary for subsistence determinations in several areas of the state. The Board of Game reviewed reasonable opportunity and Tier II Management options for muskox, moose and caribou populations in the Interior and Western regions. The Board of Fisheries addressed subsistence proposals, reviewed customary and traditional determinations and amount necessary for subsistence findings in the Kodiak and Chignik regions.

Special Assignments. Division expertise was requested for several special issues including a cabinet level group to address and respond to the disastrous salmon returns in western Alaska. Regional information on subsistence harvests and uses from the Community Profile Database were presented to the cabinet working group as it developed policy and regulations to respond to the disaster.

EVOS: This program is supported by oil spill restoration funds administered by the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council. The subsistence restoration program includes four projects: community involvement; production of a video; harbor seal restoration; and coho salmon enhancement. The Division of Subsistence administers these projects, which in part support professional service contracts with Alaska Native communities and regional organizations to complete much of the work. Objectives include newsletters, workshops, a video on subsistence use of intertidal resources, and a harbor seal biosampling program. The overall objective, as defined by the Trustee Council, is to restore injured subsistence uses. Subsistence will have recovered when injured resources used for subsistence are healthy and productive and exist at pre-spill levels. People must also be confident that resources are safe to eat and that cultural values provided by subsistence activities are reintegrated into community life. It is recognized that directly involving

subsistence users and communities in the restoration process is one means to achieve these goals.

Statutory and Regulatory Authority

AS 16.05.094
AS 16.05.258
AS 16.05.090
5 AAC 99.010
AS 37.14.400

State Subsistence
Component Financial Summary

All dollars in thousands

	FY2002 Actuals	FY2003 Authorized	FY2004 Governor
Non-Formula Program:			
Component Expenditures:			
71000 Personal Services	0.0	2,591.2	2,644.2
72000 Travel	0.0	321.1	271.1
73000 Contractual	0.0	1,436.6	1,256.6
74000 Supplies	0.0	106.1	106.1
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	4,455.0	4,278.0
Funding Sources:			
1002 Federal Receipts	0.0	2,253.5	2,121.3
1004 General Fund Receipts	0.0	224.1	1,024.9
1007 Inter-Agency Receipts	0.0	538.1	542.0
1018 Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Settlement	0.0	369.2	369.4
1108 Statutory Designated Program Receipts	0.0	70.1	220.4
1140 AIDEA Dividend	0.0	1,000.0	0.0
Funding Totals	0.0	4,455.0	4,278.0

State Subsistence

Proposed Changes in Levels of Service for FY2004

AIDEA dividend receipts were added to the Subsistence budget by the Legislature in FY03 in place of general funds. This was a one time funding source and general funds have been restored in the FY04 budget. A net reduction of \$200.0 maintains core division functions, but will result in delays in the update of the community profile database.

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	224.1	2,253.5	1,977.4	4,455.0
Adjustments which will continue current level of service:				
-Annualize FY2003 COLA Increase for General Government and Supervisory Bargaining Units	0.0	17.7	4.4	22.1
-Continue RPL 11-3-1066 Convert Statutory Designated PR to Federal Receipts	0.0	-150.0	150.0	0.0
-Convert AIDEA Receipts to General Funds	800.0	0.0	-800.0	0.0
-\$75 per Month Health Insurance Increase for Non-covered Staff	0.8	0.1	0.0	0.9
Proposed budget decreases:				
-Decrement of AIDEA Funds	0.0	0.0	-200.0	-200.0
FY2004 Governor	1,024.9	2,121.3	1,131.8	4,278.0

State Subsistence

Personal Services Information

	Authorized Positions		Personal Services Costs	
	<u>FY2003</u> <u>Authorized</u>	<u>FY2004</u> <u>Governor</u>		
Full-time	28	28	Annual Salaries	2,007,527
Part-time	10	10	Premium Pay	10,066
Nonpermanent	62	62	Annual Benefits	683,388
			<i>Less 2.10% Vacancy Factor</i>	(56,781)
			Lump Sum Premium Pay	0
Totals	100	100	Total Personal Services	2,644,200

Position Classification Summary

Job Class Title	Anchorage	Fairbanks	Juneau	Others	Total
Administrative Assistant	1	0	0	0	1
Administrative Clerk II	0	0	1	0	1
Administrative Clerk III	1	1	1	1	4
Administrative Manager I	0	0	1	0	1
Analyst/Programmer III	3	0	0	0	3
Asst Dir Dept Fish & Game	1	0	0	0	1
Division Director	0	0	1	0	1
F&W Technician II	1	0	1	60	62
F&W Technician III	0	0	0	1	1
F&W Technician V	0	0	0	1	1
Prog Coordinator	1	0	0	0	1
Research Analyst III	1	0	0	0	1
Subsist Resource Spec I	1	0	2	0	3
Subsist Resource Spec II	2	1	2	2	7
Subsist Resource Spec III	2	3	1	2	8
Subsistence Program Manager	1	1	1	0	3
Wildlife Biologist II	0	0	0	1	1
Totals	15	6	11	68	100