

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

**Department of Labor and Workforce Development  
Fishermens Fund  
Component Budget Summary**

## **Component: Fishermens Fund**

**Contact: Paul Grossi, Director**

**Tel:** (907) 465-2790 **Fax:** (907) 465-2797 **E-mail:** Paul\_Grossi@labor.state.ak.us

### **Component Mission**

Provide assistance with the medical costs of injuries or illnesses due to commercial fishing activities on shore or in state waters.

### **Component Services Provided**

The Fishermen's Fund was established in 1951 and provides funds for the care and treatment of Alaska licensed commercial fishermen whose injuries or illnesses are directly connected to operations as fishermen. The Fund is not an insurance program, but an emergency fund payer of last resort for medical costs.

The Fishermen's Fund revenue is generated through the sales of commercial fishing licenses and permits to both resident and non-residents. Sales of these licenses and permits are designated for the Fishermen's Fund at a fixed percentage (39% effective Jan. 1, 2000) of all commercial fishing licenses sold by all vendors and a fixed amount for all permits issued by the Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission.

### **Component Goals and Strategies**

1) REDUCE THE FINANCIAL BURDEN OF MEDICAL EXPENSES ON FISHERMEN BY MAKING THEM AWARE OF PROGRAM BENEFITS AND REQUIREMENTS.

- The Fishermen's Fund Administrator and/or Council Chair plan on meeting with fishermen, medical providers, harbor masters and other interest groups a minimum of five times during FY2003 to discuss this program and answer questions.

- As a result of past Council recommendations, the Fishermen and Physician's Reports of Injury/Illness will continue to be revised and simplified. In the past, these forms have presented some confusion in how they were to be completed and who was to complete them. This component is striving to provide more simplified versions of these forms.

2) PROVIDE BENEFITS IN A COST EFFECTIVE, TIMELY MANNER.

- Develop and begin to implement an electronic information handling system that will be compatible with electronic filing. The initial stages of this project have begun.

- Continue to improve communications with insurance carriers and medical providers through discussion and timely processing of provider payments.

- Continue to monitor and attempt to improve response time to fishermen and providers by improving procedures and focusing staff responsibilities to more effectively utilize resources.

### **Key Component Issues for FY2003 – 2004**

- This component continues to use an outdated computer database and claims handling system that is becoming obsolete and will soon be unsupported. Consequently existing program resources are being applied to developing a new claims handling system. The process to produce a new system has been initiated.

- Fishermen continue to either be unaware of this program or not understand the requirements of the program and the benefits for which they may be eligible. Meetings and discussions are scheduled and a toll-free telephone line will be continued.

- Medical providers continue to be ill informed regarding the submission and completion of claims. As a result the

Fishermen's Fund must continue to make an effort to educate and increase communication with various providers throughout the State.

### **Major Component Accomplishments in 2002**

- In FY02 the Fisherman's Fund continued to process claims within the benchmark.
- This component has initiated a project to produce a new information handling system.

### **Statutory and Regulatory Authority**

AS 23.35  
8 AAC 55

**Fishermens Fund**  
**Component Financial Summary**

*All dollars in thousands*

	<b>FY2002 Actuals</b>	<b>FY2003 Authorized</b>	<b>FY2004 Governor</b>
<b>Non-Formula Program:</b>			
<b>Component Expenditures:</b>			
71000 Personal Services	138.7	155.5	159.4
72000 Travel	9.0	18.2	18.2
73000 Contractual	72.1	259.4	257.1
74000 Supplies	3.7	9.7	9.7
75000 Equipment	0.0	0.0	0.0
76000 Land/Buildings	0.0	0.0	0.0
77000 Grants, Claims	584.4	869.4	869.4
78000 Miscellaneous	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>Expenditure Totals</b>	<b>807.9</b>	<b>1,312.2</b>	<b>1,313.8</b>
<b>Funding Sources:</b>			
1032 Fishermen's Fund	807.9	1,312.2	1,313.8
<b>Funding Totals</b>	<b>807.9</b>	<b>1,312.2</b>	<b>1,313.8</b>

## Fishermens Fund

### Proposed Changes in Levels of Service for FY2004

No service changes are anticipated.

### 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>
<b>FY2003 Authorized</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>1,312.2</b>	<b>1,312.2</b>
<b>Adjustments which will continue current level of service:</b>				
-Annualize FY2003 COLA Increase for General Government and Supervisory Bargaining Units	0.0	0.0	1.6	1.6
<b>FY2004 Governor</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>1,313.8</b>	<b>1,313.8</b>

**Fishermens Fund**

**Personal Services Information**

	Authorized Positions		Personal Services Costs	
	<u>FY2003</u> <u>Authorized</u>	<u>FY2004</u> <u>Governor</u>		
Full-time	3	3	Annual Salaries	115,626
Part-time	0	0	Premium Pay	0
Nonpermanent	0	0	Annual Benefits	44,726
			<i>Less 0.59% Vacancy Factor</i>	(952)
			Lump Sum Premium Pay	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>Total Personal Services</b>	<b>159,400</b>

**Position Classification Summary**

Job Class Title	Anchorage	Fairbanks	Juneau	Others	Total
Worker Comp Off II	0	0	1	0	1
Worker Comp Technician	0	0	2	0	2
<b>Totals</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>