

**State of Alaska
FY2006 Governor's Operating Budget**

**Department of Fish and Game
Sport Fisheries
Results Delivery Unit Budget Summary**

Sport Fisheries Results Delivery Unit

Contribution to Department's Mission

The mission of the Division of Sport Fish is to protect and improve the state's recreational fisheries resources.

Core Services

- **Stock Assessment:** The division regularly assesses fish populations that are the basis of our state's recreational and personal use fisheries to assure sustained yield from these fishery resources.
- **Management:** Develops fishery regulations/management plans in coordination with Board of Fisheries and other regulatory boards to manage recreational and personal use fisheries for sustained yields.
- **Hatchery Production:** Maintains 3 hatcheries producing chinook/coho salmon, rainbow trout, char and grayling to provide added/more diverse recreational fishing opportunities that do not affect wild stocks or their fisheries.
- **Access Development & Maintenance:** The division builds, buys, leases, and maintains physical access to fisheries for the benefit of Alaska's recreational and personal use fishers.
- **Habitat Assessment:** The division provides habitat assessment and restoration expertise and assistance in the management of legislatively-designated Special Areas.
- **Information & Education Services:** The division supports an outreach program to inform and educate the public regarding sport fishing opportunities, regulations, and the life histories of fishes and their habitat needs.
- **Enforcement:** The division assists in enforcement of state laws and regulations to assure orderly and legal recreational and personal use fisheries.
- **Planning & Survey:** The division monitors the preferences of Alaska's public regarding the management of Alaska's recreational and personal use fisheries through strategic planning and surveys of public opinion.

End Results	Strategies to Achieve Results
<p>A: Sustain recreational fishing opportunities while optimizing social and economic benefits from these opportunities.</p> <p><u>Target #1:</u> Maintain increasing trend in participation in recreational fishing. <u>Measure #1:</u> Total number of angler days and number of licensed anglers.</p> <p><u>Target #2:</u> A positive trend in trip related expenditures as measured by the National Survey of Hunting and Fishing. <u>Measure #2:</u> Trend in the line graphing trip related expenditures.</p> <p><u>Target #3:</u> Increase to at least 75% the number of anglers that are satisfied with the variety of recreational fisheries experiences available. <u>Measure #3:</u> Percent of anglers satisfied with the variety of experiences available.</p>	<p>A1: Sustain recreational fisheries targeting wild stocks.</p> <p><u>Target #1:</u> Increase by 5% the number of identifiable fish populations targeted by recreational anglers with established biological reference points. <u>Measure #1:</u> Number of identifiable fish populations targeted by recreational anglers for which biological reference points are defined.</p> <p><u>Target #2:</u> Maintain 80% or more of the identified wild fish populations targeted by recreational anglers at levels equal to or above established biological reference points. <u>Measure #2:</u> Number of identified fish populations targeted by recreational anglers at levels equal to or above pertinent biological reference points.</p> <p><u>Target #3:</u> Maintain the number of angler days supported by wild stocks at the 5 year average. <u>Measure #3:</u> Number of angler days supported by wild</p>

stocks at the five year running average.

Target #4: Maintain the recreational catch of wild stocks.

Measure #4: Number of Wild fish caught at the 5 year running average.

A2: Increase recreational fishing opportunities via supplemental hatchery production.

Target #1: Maintain the number of fish stocked over the previous 5 year average.

Measure #1: Number of fish stocked.

Target #2: Increase the number of stocked fish caught by 3% over the previous 5 year average.

Measure #2: Number of stocked fish caught reported by harvest and catch.

Target #3: Increase the harvest of hatchery-produced fish by 5% over the previous 5 year average.

Measure #3: Number of hatchery-produced fish harvested.

A3: Manage Alaska's special areas in accordance with legislative guidelines.

Target #1: Increase by 1 the number of special management areas that have current management plans.

Measure #1: Percent change in number of special management areas that have management plans.

Target #2: Review and issue if appropriate 90 percent of special area permits within 30 days.

Measure #2: Number of special area permits issued within 30 days.

A4: Review, permit and reserve instream flow to minimize impacts of land and water projects on Alaska's fish and wildlife resources and their uses.

Target #1: Increase the number of instream flow analyses performed by at least 5% annually over the previous running 5 year average.

Measure #1: Number of instream flow analyses performed annually.

Target #2: All category 3 land and water development projects received by the department under its MOU with ADNR are reviewed within specified time frames.

Measure #2: Number of Category 3 land and water development projects that are reviewed within specified time frames.

Target #3: All hydroelectric power development projects received by the department are reviewed within specified time frames.

Measure #3: Number of hydroelectric power development projects received by the department that are reviewed within specified time frames.

Target #4: Review all applications of water rights and fish habitat permits received within required timeframe.

Measure #4: Number of water rights and fish habitat permit applications reviewed with required timeframe.

Target #5: Review all land and water projects submitted to the department for comment with specified time limits.

Measure #5: Number of projects reviewed within specified time limits.

A5: To maintain access to public resources

Target #1: Complete an average of 3 boating access projects per year over 5 years.

Measure #1: Number of boating access projects completed annually.

Target #2: Review all ANCSA, Native allotments and Native Allotment reconveyance requests as required and request easements as appropriate.

Measure #2: The number of ANCSA, Native allotments, and Native Allotment reconveyance requests reviewed and number of resulting easements requested.

Target #3: To review all applications for easement vacations affecting access to fish and wildlife.

Measure #3: Number of applications reviewed.

Target #4: Review all local, state, federal land management plans affecting fish, wildlife, and their uses submitted to the department.

Measure #4: Number of plans reviewed.

A6: Maintain a diverse, dedicated, motivated, empowered, and effective workforce.

Target #1: Increase to at least 90% the number of employees that report being motivated and empowered.

Measure #1: Percentage of employees that report being motivated and empowered.

Target #2: Increase to at least 90% the number of employees that receive evaluations.

Measure #2: Percentage of employees that receive evaluation.

Target #3: Increase to at least 90% the number of employees who report having the tools, resources, and skills to be effecting in their job.

Measure #3: Percent change in employees who report having the tools, resources, and skills to be effective in their job.

A7: Maintain the viability of nongame aquatic fish and invertebrate populations.

Target #1: Develop a comprehensive wildlife conservations strategy by June 2005.

Measure #1: Plan completion and approval by the October

	<p>2005 deadline.</p> <p>A8: Public acceptance of management actions.</p> <p><u>Target #1:</u> Reduce by 5% the number of Agenda Change Requests (ACR's) submitted to the Alaska Board of Fisheries regarding recreational and personal use fisheries. <u>Measure #1:</u> Number of ACR's submitted.</p> <p>A9: Inform and educate Alaskans about the importance of sustaining Alaska's fish and wildlife for future generations.</p> <p><u>Target #1:</u> Maintain participation by Alaskans in information and education programs about fish and wildlife at the average for the last three years. <u>Measure #1:</u> Participation in information and education programs.</p>
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Major Activities to Advance Strategies

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop measurable and achievable management objectives based on sustained yield principles that are consistent with Alaska's Constitution. • Obtain and report information on the development, achievement, and evaluation of management objectives. • Develop enforceable regulations and emergency orders to achieve management objectives utilizing all available information. • Evaluate if regulations achieve management objectives. • Manage fish aquaculture to preserve sustained yield from wild stocks. • Manage populations of aquatic nuisance species to preserve sustained yield from wild stocks. • Determine the fishing opportunities sought by the angling public with regard to resident, anadromous, and marine fishes. • Develop a range of fishing opportunities, recognizing variation among anglers relative to income, age, experience, ability an opportunities they seek. • Provide regulators with management options that meet the demand for recreational fishing opportunities. • Publicize fishing opportunities. • Enhance fisheries to meet demand, consistent with existing department policies. • Improve liaison between ADF&G and the Department of Public Safety, Division of Fish and Wildlife Protection in prosecuting violators. • Increase compliance by providing the public with effective education and guidance as required. • Encourage public "peer pressure" among anglers to increase compliance with regulations. • Identify issues that threaten sustainability. • Support regular communications (phone contacts, meetings, etc.) with stakeholders to discuss management and research activities. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify, review, and prioritize research needs. • Develop and implement research programs to assess the relationships between fish production and associated habitats. • Inform and educate the public about the results of research projects and the benefits of scientifically sound research. • Develop and support partnerships with other governmental and non-governmental organizations to foster and conduct sound scientific research. • Assess and define habitat critical to key non-game populations. • Develop a comprehensive non-game management plan for populations identified as at risk. • Implement a primary and secondary curriculum focused on stewardship. • Regularly identify and prioritize issues related to stewardship. • Develop and update pamphlets detailing recreational fishing opportunities. • Conduct in partnership with organizations, kids and family fishing days to develop skills, knowledge, and attitudes for being responsible anglers. • Evaluate constraints on fishing participation and develop approaches for addressing management related constraints. • Partner with various organizations to publicize opportunities, facilities, and equipment available for disabled anglers. • Establish principles and guidelines for public involvement. • Regularly identify and evaluate the significance of emerging issues. • Develop action plans to address controversial management issues. • Foster an improved understanding of regulatory processes. |
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Major Activities to Advance Strategies

- Provide regulators with social and economic assessments of management options under consideration.
- Develop/review criteria to evaluate the compatibility of public access to fisheries with the aquatic, riparian, and upland habitats they affect.
- Fix problems at existing public access sites where significant damage to habitat has occurred.
- Inform and educate the public about responsible fishing practices that minimize impacts to habitat.
- Develop and support partnerships with other governmental and non-governmental organizations to address responsible public access to fisheries.
- Review and/or develop policies and regulations, and provide advice on laws to promote responsible public access to fisheries.
- Inform and educate the public about responsible aquaculture practices.
- Review and/or develop aquaculture policies and regulations, and provide advice on laws to ensure effective and responsible aquaculture.
- Develop and/or review criteria to evaluate the impacts of aquatic nuisance species.
- Review existing and proposed management practices for aquatic nuisance species.
- Eliminate or minimize present populations of aquatic nuisance species where practical.
- Inform and educate the public regarding issues concerning aquatic nuisance species.
- Review and monitor proposed and existing land and water development projects.
- Review and comment on mitigation associated with land and water development.
- Inform and educate the public regarding responsible land and water development.
- Review and/or develop policies and regulations, and provide advice on laws to ensure responsible land and water development.
- Partner with other state agencies to provide input into permit reviews by the department.
- Develop and/or review criteria on the quantity and quality of water needed to sustain fish, wildlife and vegetation.
- Identify and prioritize water bodies that need protection or restoration.
- Review and monitor proposed and existing water use projects.
- Review and comment on mitigation associated with water uses.
- Review/develop policies/regulations, provide advice on laws to ensure sufficient water quality/quantity necessary to sustain habitats and fisheries.
- Monitor our effectiveness in involving and informing the public.
- Develop regional outreach programs to provide I&E on on job types/career opps. w/division, targeting highschool/college level in rural/urban comm.
- Consider using local hires for project support when appropriate, particularly for projects in rural areas.
- Fund/award a min. 4 annual American Fisheries Society Hutton Junior Fisheries Scholarships, at least one from other than FBX, ANCH, JNU.
- Promote merits and quality of work conducted by division employees and the potential for personal and professional accomplishments and contributions.
- Utilize student interns for proj. support where appropriate to expose students to the division and develop skills for employment with the division.
- Provide work experience/training opps. to seasonal/temp. staff so they can excel in current positions and compete for advanced perm/fulltime positions
- Fund at least three graduate-level fishery positions at universities.
- Create a division training program to coordinate the identification of training needs and scheduling of opportunities for training.
- Evaluate employee performance on a scheduled basis/provide opportunity for feedback on supervision/understanding responsibilities/job related needs.
- Reinstate an in-house training program of short courses on technical, administrative, and managerial subjects relative to job success.
- Develop an orientation manual for new employees.
- Develop/cross-train individual staff w/diverse and comprehensive knowledge, skills, and abilities to provide flexibility when balancing workloads.
- Actively promote monetary compensation competitive with other gov. agencies/private industry and communicate efforts to staff annually.
- Establish guidelines and criteria for recognizing achievements by individual staff.
- Ask all employees leaving divisional employment to fill out a confidential "debriefing" questionnaire to address reasons the employee is leaving.
- Develop an efficient, vertically integrated budgetary system that meets the needs of area, regional, and headquarters staff.
- Foster a work environment where decision-making skills are developed and recognized and authorities are clearly defined.
- Foster environment where staff have appropriate level of involvement in decisions affecting their work environment/assigned duties/effectiveness
- Assert Alaska's sovereignty to manage the state's fishery resources.
- Review/provide input to Div. of Admin. to ensure a

Major Activities to Advance Strategies

career ladder exists entirely within the division for all job class series including admin. series.

- Review/provide input to Div. of Admin to ensure minimum qualifications for all job classes are appropriate without being overly restrictive.

FY2006 Resources Allocated to Achieve Results

FY2006 Results Delivery Unit Budget: \$43,178,000

Personnel:

Full time 228

Part time 231

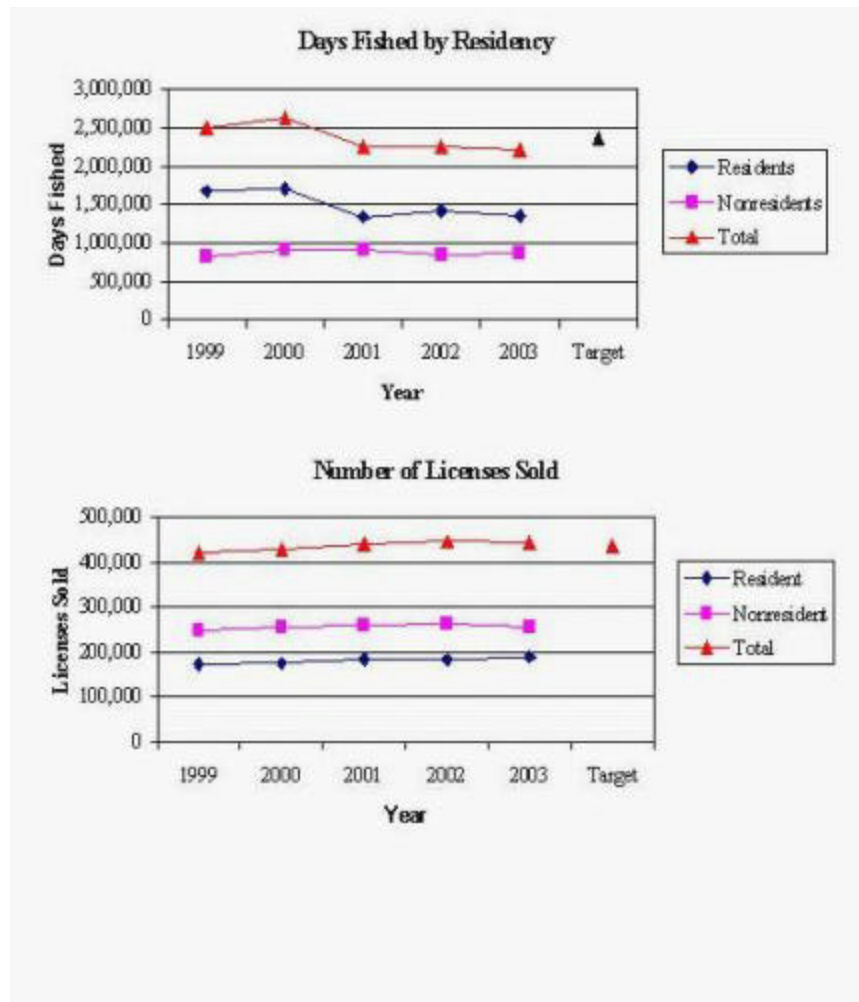
Total 459

Performance Measure Detail

A: Result - Sustain recreational fishing opportunities while optimizing social and economic benefits from these opportunities.

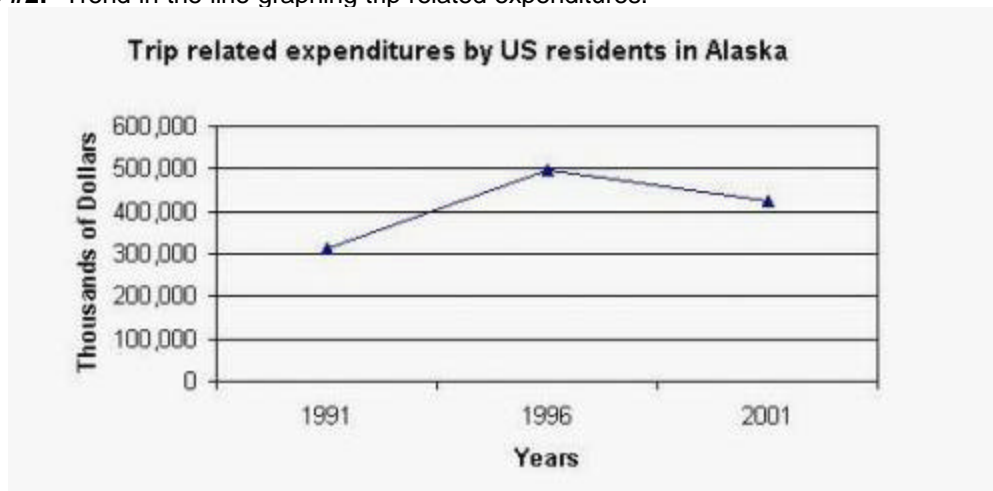
Target #1: Maintain increasing trend in participation in recreational fishing.

Measure #1: Total number of angler days and number of licensed anglers.



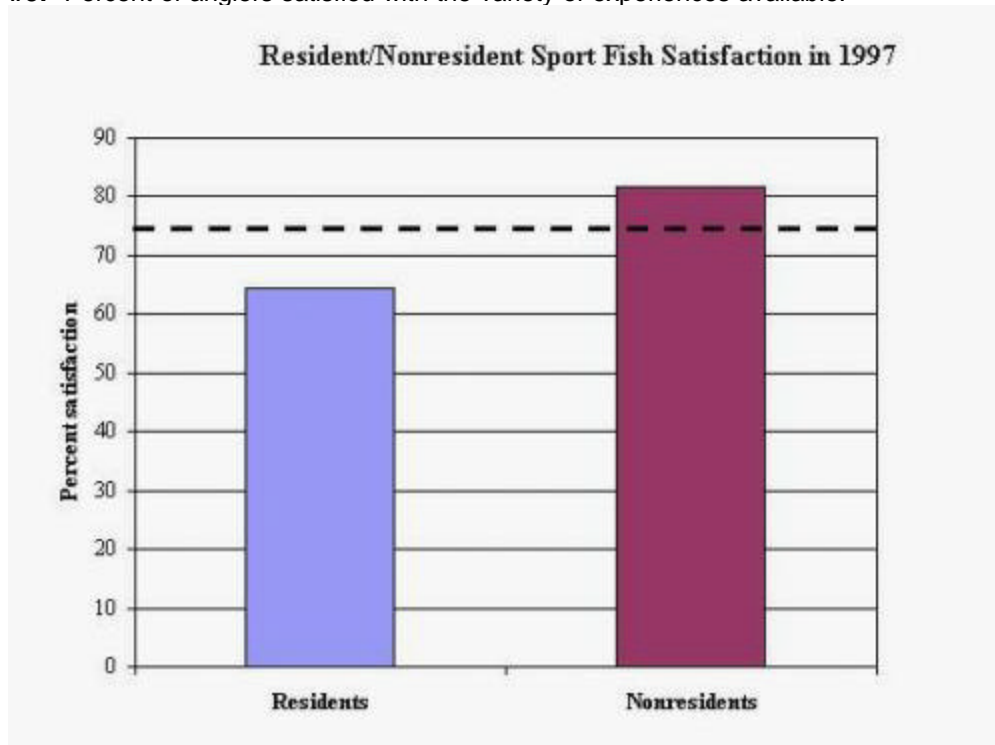
Target #2: A positive trend in trip related expenditures as measured by the National Survey of Hunting and Fishing.

Measure #2: Trend in the line graphing trip related expenditures.



Target #3: Increase to at least 75% the number of anglers that are satisfied with the variety of recreational fisheries experiences available.

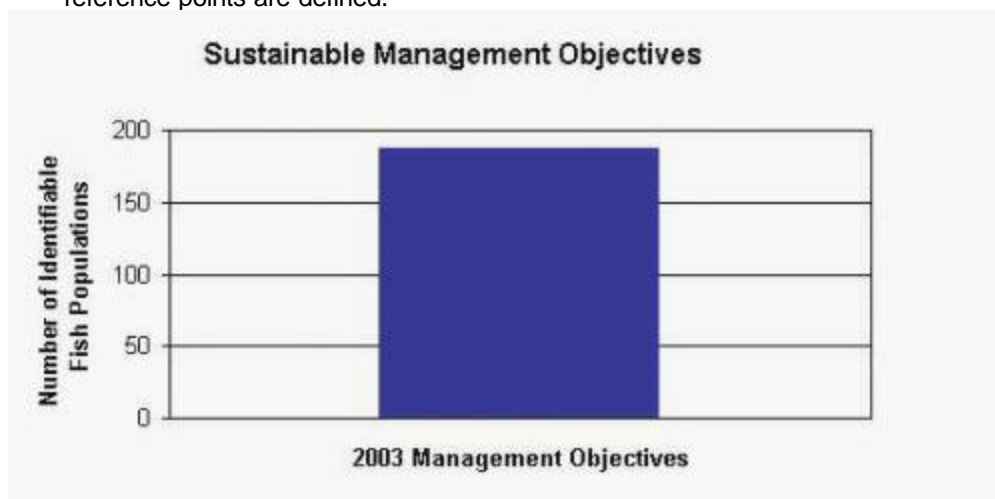
Measure #3: Percent of anglers satisfied with the variety of experiences available.



A1: Strategy - Sustain recreational fisheries targeting wild stocks.

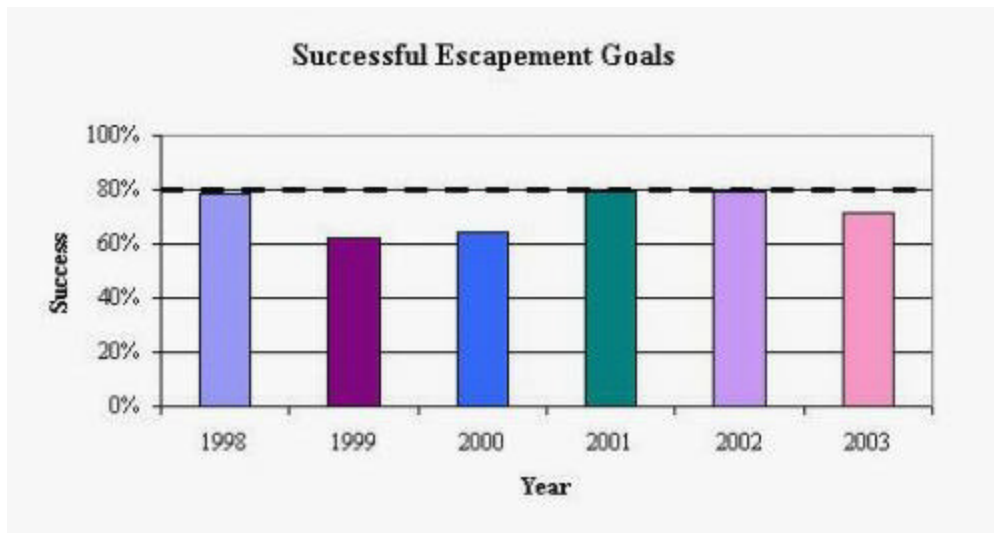
Target #1: Increase by 5% the number of identifiable fish populations targeted by recreational anglers with established biological reference points.

Measure #1: Number of identifiable fish populations targeted by recreational anglers for which biological reference points are defined.



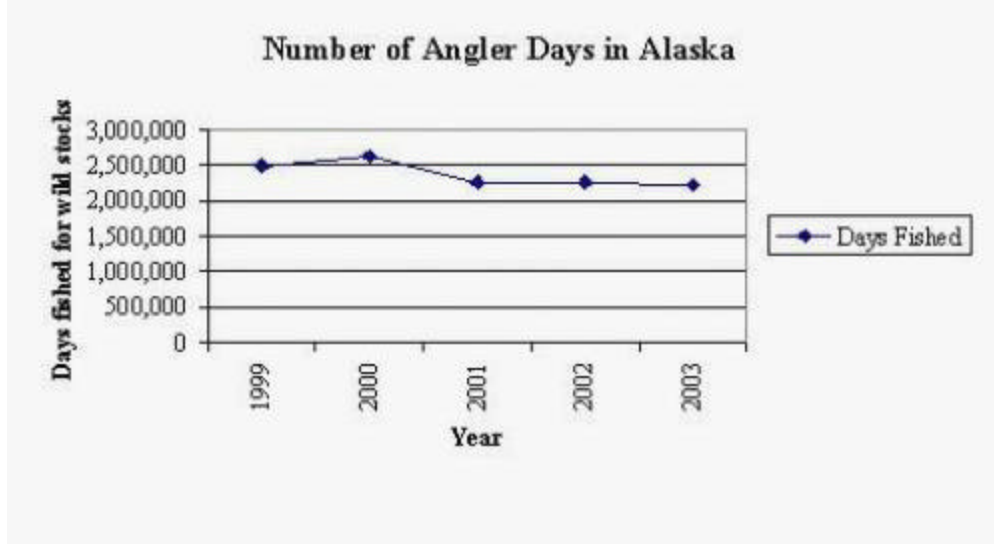
Target #2: Maintain 80% or more of the identified wild fish populations targeted by recreational anglers at levels equal to or above established biological reference points.

Measure #2: Number of identified fish populations targeted by recreational anglers at levels equal to or above pertinent biological reference points.



Target #3: Maintain the number of angler days supported by wild stocks at the 5 year average.

Measure #3: Number of angler days supported by wild stocks at the five year running average.



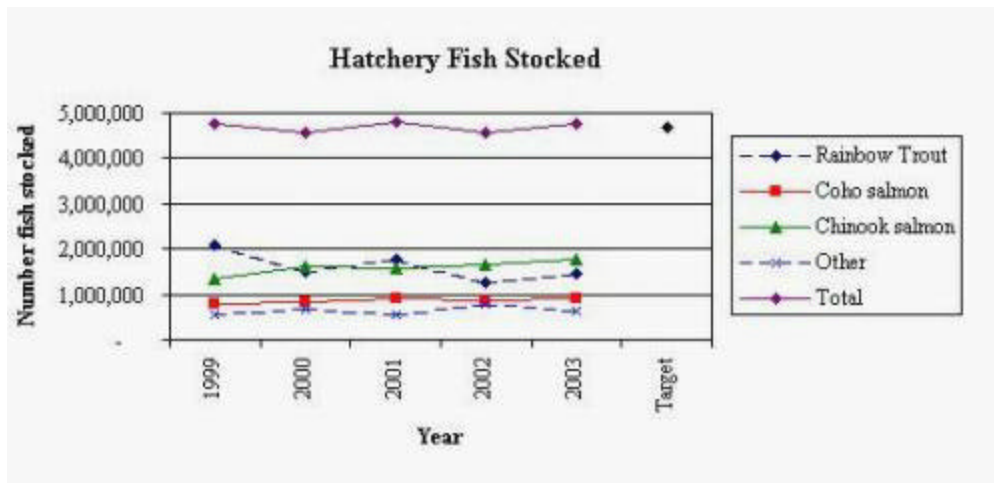
Target #4: Maintain the recreational catch of wild stocks.

Measure #4: Number of Wild fish caught at the 5 year running average.

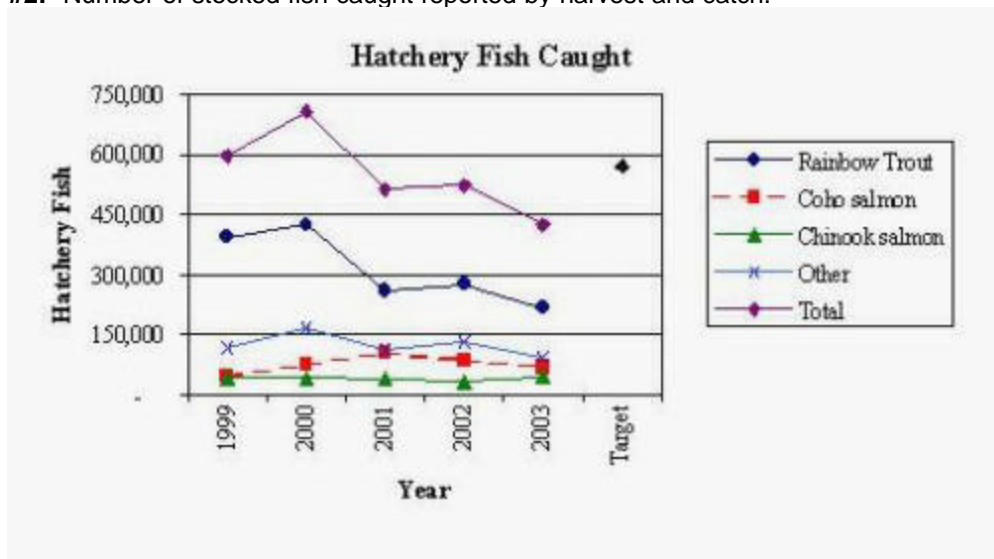
A2: Strategy - Increase recreational fishing opportunities via supplemental hatchery production.

Target #1: Maintain the number of fish stocked over the previous 5 year average.

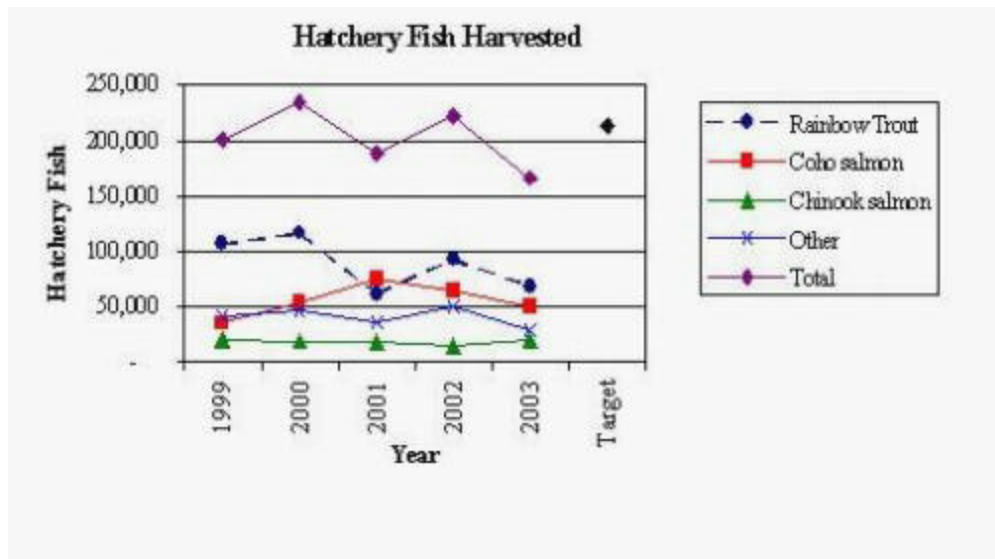
Measure #1: Number of fish stocked.



Target #2: Increase the number of stocked fish caught by 3% over the previous 5 year average.
Measure #2: Number of stocked fish caught reported by harvest and catch.



Target #3: Increase the harvest of hatchery-produced fish by 5% over the previous 5 year average.
Measure #3: Number of hatchery-produced fish harvested.



A3: Strategy - Manage Alaska's special areas in accordance with legislative guidelines.

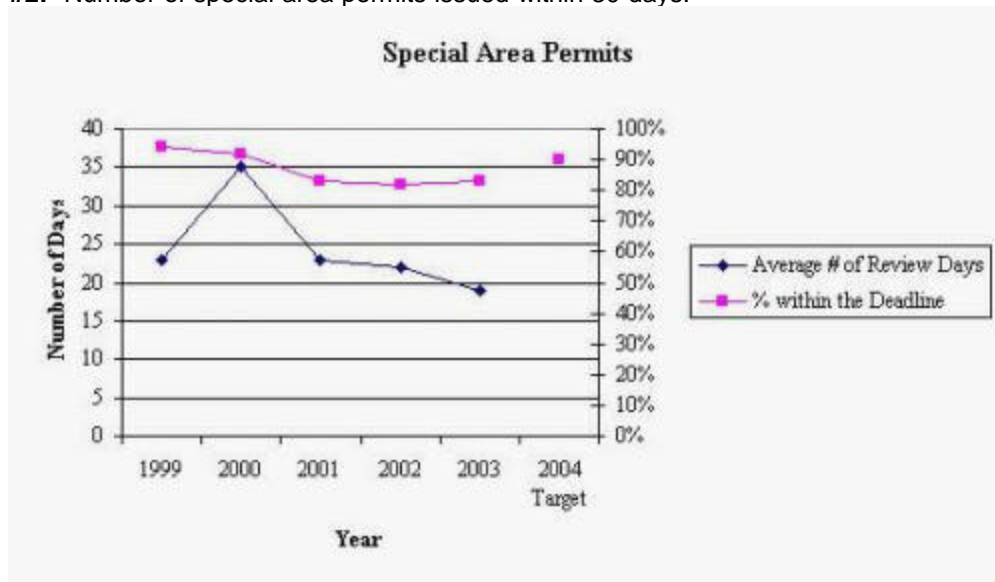
Target #1: Increase by 1 the number of special management areas that have current management plans.

Measure #1: Percent change in number of special management areas that have management plans.

Analysis of results and challenges: Including state game refuges, sanctuaries and critical habitat areas, ADF&G has 32 different areas. Of these, 16 have management plans: 14 have ADF&G management plans, one has an interim ADF&G management plan, and one area is managed via a State Park management plan. The number of management plans has not increased in the past five years (2000 - 2004), however a revision of one plan was completed in 2002 and the State Park management plan was revised in 2002.

Target #2: Review and issue if appropriate 90 percent of special area permits within 30 days.

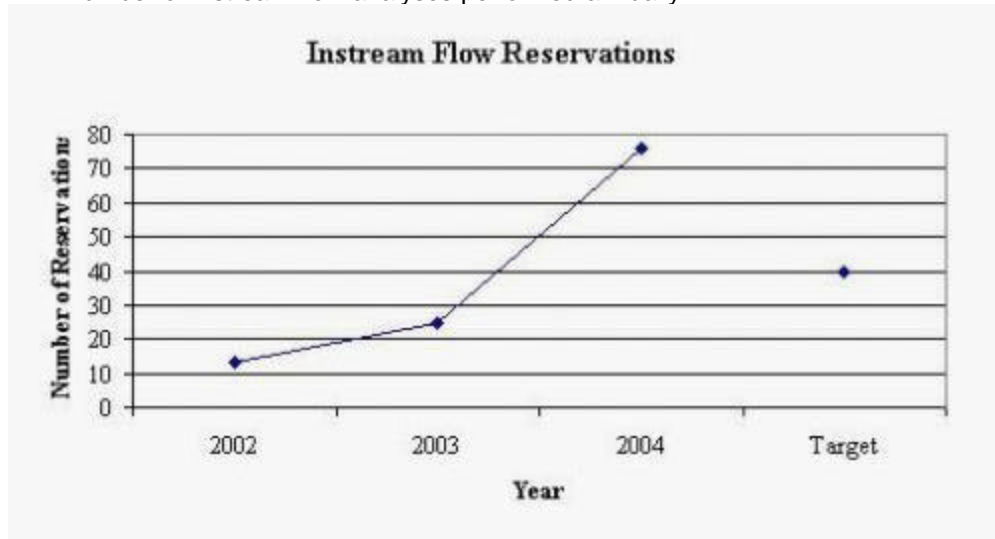
Measure #2: Number of special area permits issued within 30 days.



A4: Strategy - Review, permit and reserve instream flow to minimize impacts of land and water projects on Alaska's fish and wildlife resources and their uses.

Target #1: Increase the number of instream flow analyses performed by at least 5% annually over the previous running 5 year average.

Measure #1: Number of instream flow analyses performed annually.



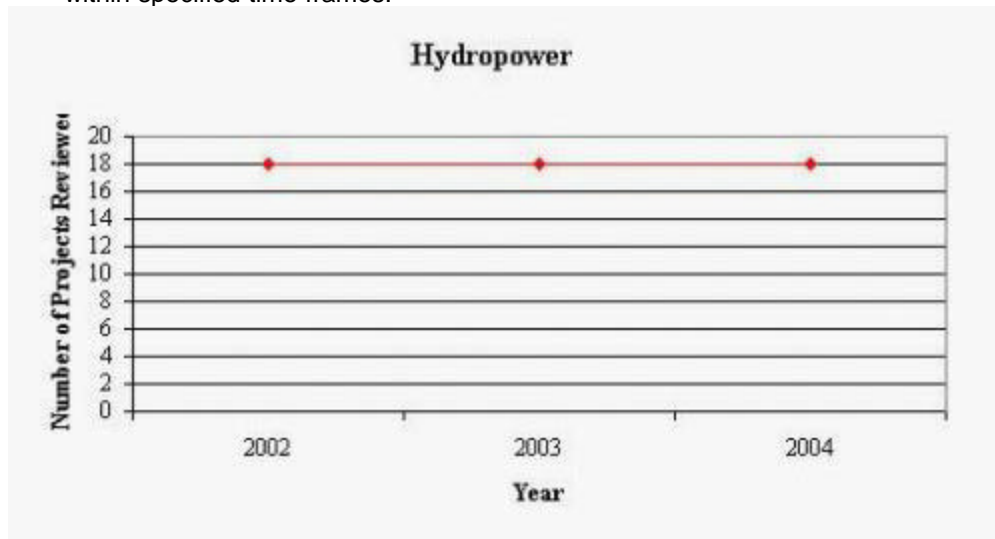
Target #2: All category 3 land and water development projects received by the department under its MOU with ADNR are reviewed within specified time frames.

Measure #2: Number of Category 3 land and water development projects that are reviewed within specified time frames.

Analysis of results and challenges: Data is being developed and is not yet available, as the recent reorganization of ADNR and Sport Fish Habitat functions gives little time for data to be compiled.

Target #3: All hydroelectric power development projects received by the department are reviewed within specified time frames.

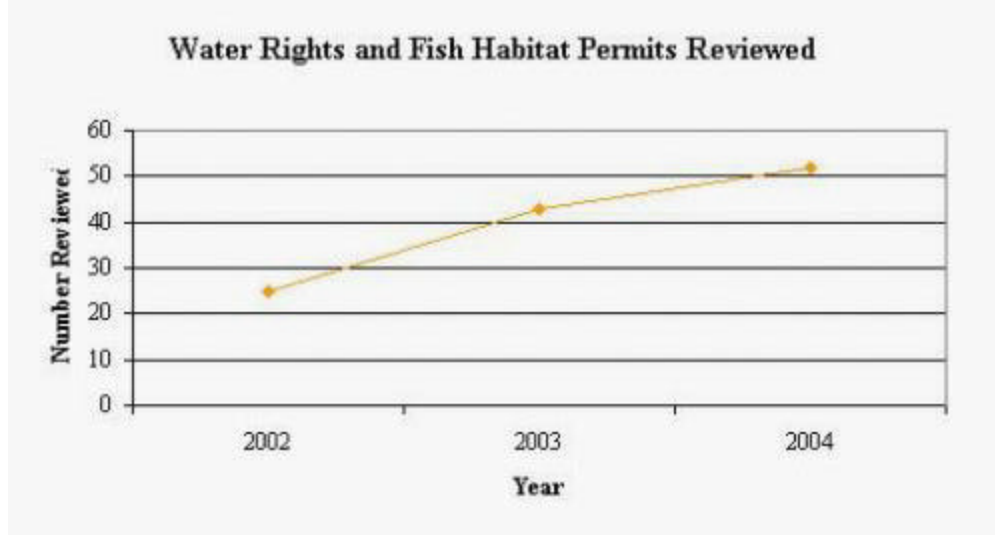
Measure #3: Number of hydroelectric power development projects received by the department that are reviewed within specified time frames.



Analysis of results and challenges: All Hydroelectric permits have been reviewed within specified time frames.

Target #4: Review all applications of water rights and fish habitat permits received within required timeframe.

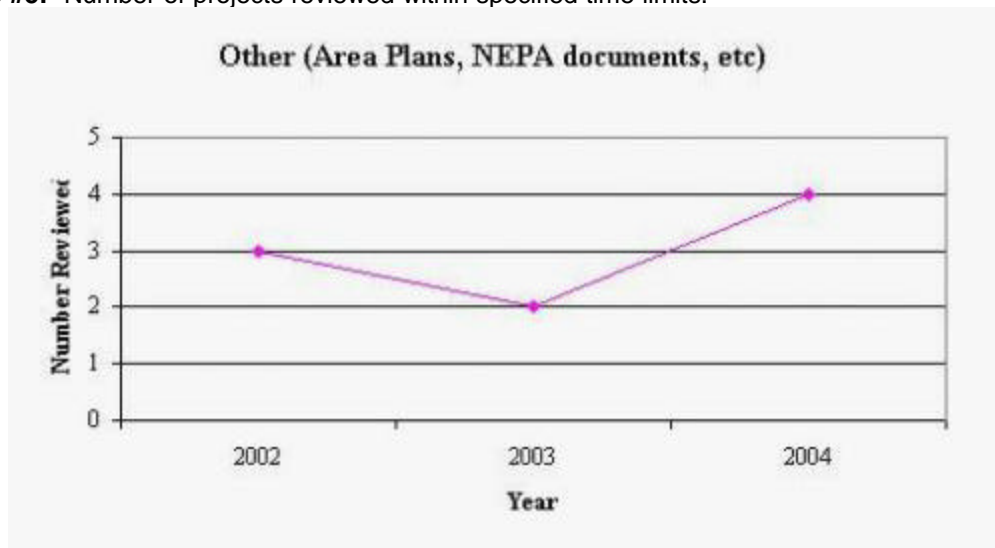
Measure #4: Number of water rights and fish habitat permit applications reviewed with required timeframe.



Analysis of results and challenges: All Water Rights and Fish Habitat Permits have been reviewed within specified time frames.

Target #5: Review all land and water projects submitted to the department for comment with specified time limits.

Measure #5: Number of projects reviewed within specified time limits.

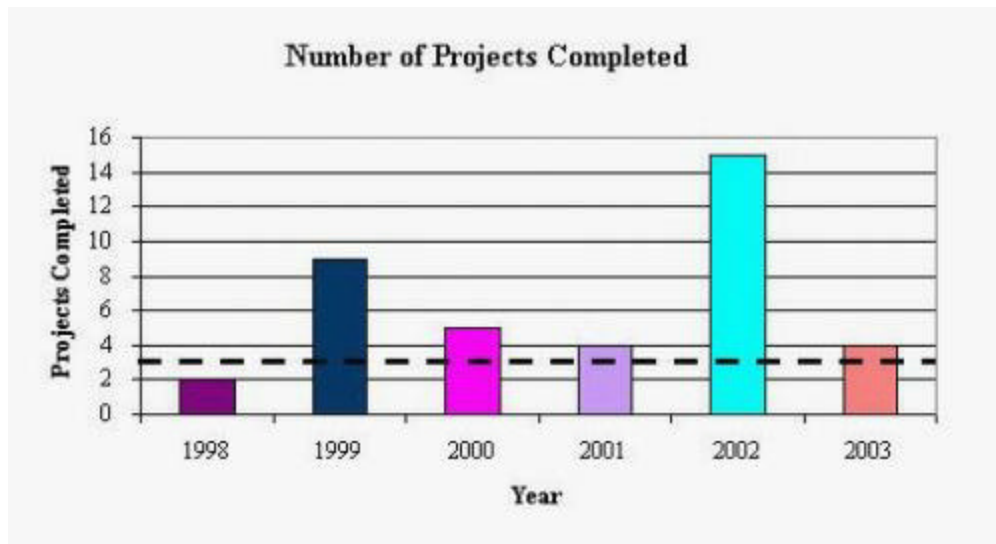


Analysis of results and challenges: All other documents have been reviewed within specified time frames.

A5: Strategy - To maintain access to public resources

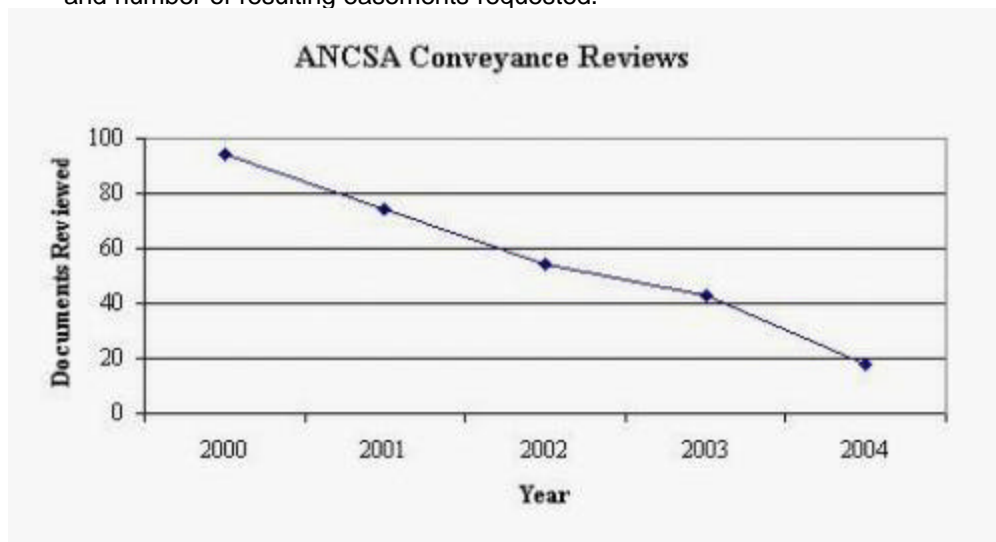
Target #1: Complete an average of 3 boating access projects per year over 5 years.

Measure #1: Number of boating access projects completed annually.



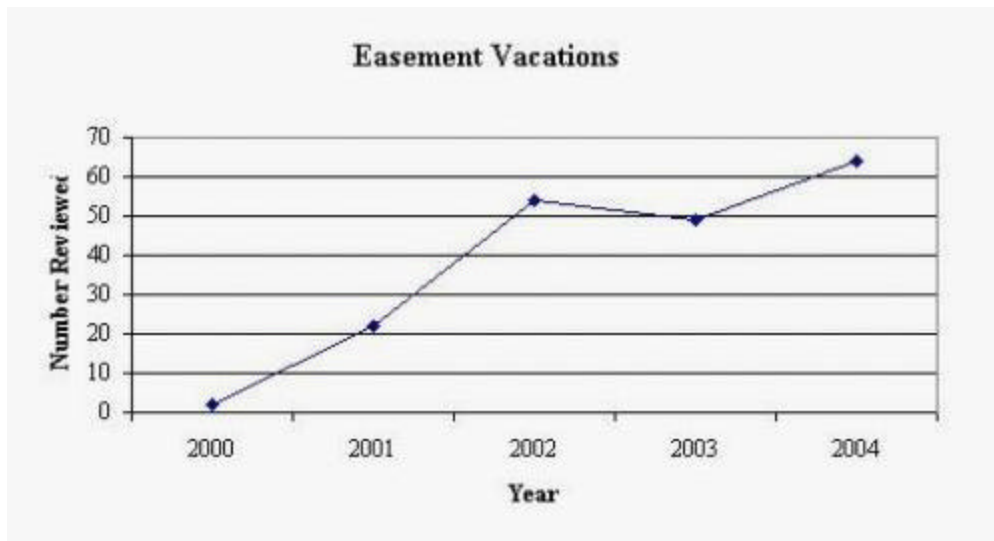
Target #2: Review all ANCSA, Native allotments and Native Allotment reconveyance requests as required and request easements as appropriate.

Measure #2: The number of ANCSA, Native allotments, and Native Allotment reconveyance requests reviewed and number of resulting easements requested.



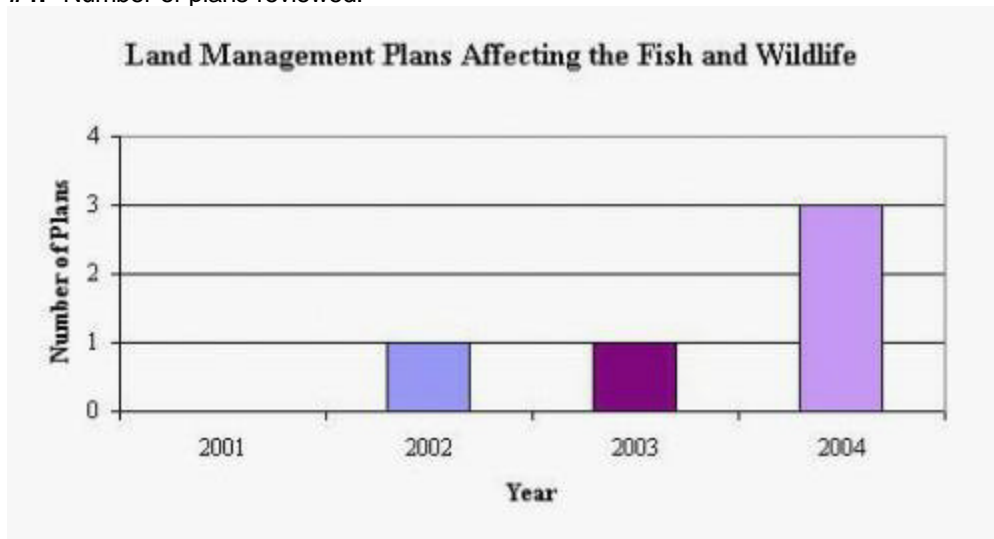
Target #3: To review all applications for easement vacations affecting access to fish and wildlife.

Measure #3: Number of applications reviewed.



Target #4: Review all local, state, federal land management plans affecting fish, wildlife, and their uses submitted to the department.

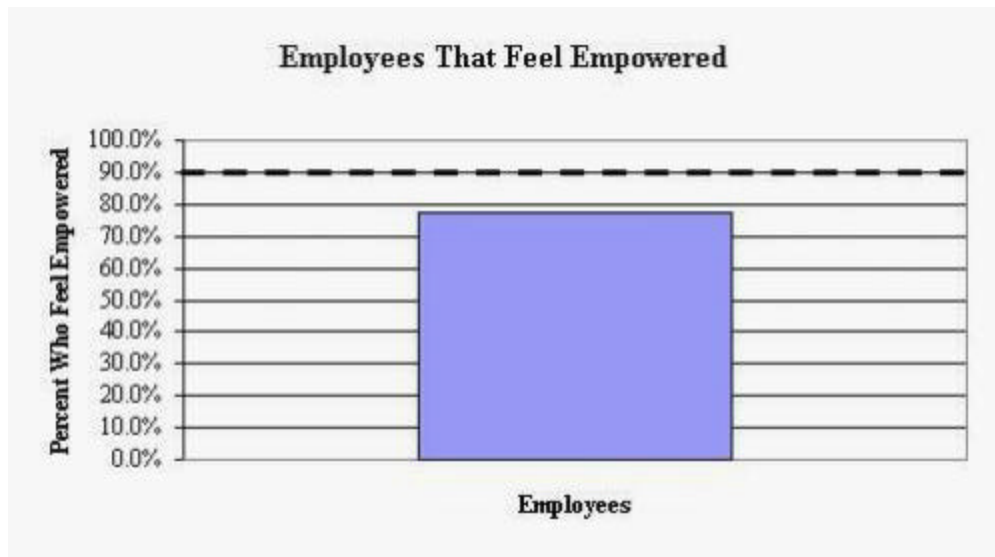
Measure #4: Number of plans reviewed.



A6: Strategy - Maintain a diverse, dedicated, motivated, empowered, and effective workforce.

Target #1: Increase to at least 90% the number of employees that report being motivated and empowered.

Measure #1: Percentage of employees that report being motivated and empowered.



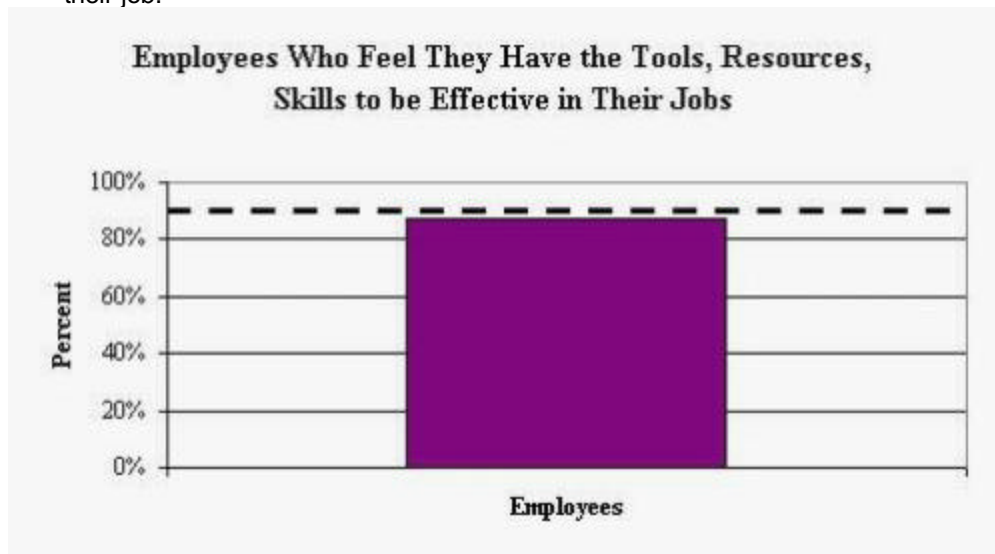
Target #2: Increase to at least 90% the number of employees that receive evaluations.

Measure #2: Percentage of employees that receive evaluation.

Analysis of results and challenges: This measure has not been tracked previously on a division-wide basis. This data will be reported in the future.

Target #3: Increase to at least 90% the number of employees who report having the tools, resources, and skills to be effecting in their job.

Measure #3: Percent change in employees who report having the tools, resources, and skills to be effective in their job.



A7: Strategy - Maintain the viability of nongame aquatic fish and invertebrate populations.

Target #1: Develop a comprehensive wildlife conservations strategy by June 2005.

Measure #1: Plan completion and approval by the October 2005 deadline.

Analysis of results and challenges: The Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy is currently being

developed and is expected to be complete prior to the deadline.

A8: Strategy - Public acceptance of management actions.

Target #1: Reduce by 5% the number of Agenda Change Requests (ACR's) submitted to the Alaska Board of Fisheries regarding recreational and personal use fisheries.

Measure #1: Number of ACR's submitted.

Analysis of results and challenges: This data is currently being compiled and will be provided by February 2005.

A9: Strategy - Inform and educate Alaskans about the importance of sustaining Alaska's fish and wildlife for future generations.

Target #1: Maintain participation by Alaskans in information and education programs about fish and wildlife at the average for the last three years.

Measure #1: Participation in information and education programs.

Analysis of results and challenges: This data is currently being compiled and will be provided by February 2005.

Key RDU Challenges

The primary goal of this RDU is to sustain recreational fishing opportunities while optimizing the social and economic benefits these opportunities provide. Challenges that significantly impact this RDU include:

- the threat to recreational fishing opportunities caused by loss of hatchery production,
- the decline in resident license sales,
- the sustainability of important stocks of fish targeted by recreational anglers,
- the allocation of harvest between various resource users,
- the maintenance of access to sport fisheries, and
- the maintenance and restoration of critical habitats that support fish and wildlife populations.

The primary challenge facing this RDU is the threat posed to recreational fishing opportunities and the benefits they provide caused by eminent loss of hatchery capacity. Because of the loss of heated water and issues associated with aging infrastructure, the division's hatchery program is unable to meet both current and projected demands. If not addressed immediately, sport fishing opportunity on both hatchery and wild stocks is in jeopardy. To address this issue, ADF&G is proposing to raise non-resident and resident sport fishing license fees. Without a license fee increase, sport fishing opportunity will be in jeopardy statewide.

The public is becoming increasingly aware of the tradeoffs between maximization of sport fishing opportunities and the perceived decline in quality of fishing experience, especially in the road accessible salmon fisheries of southcentral and interior Alaska. A result is declining participation in some of these fisheries by Alaskan residents. This issue is best illustrated in the continuing conflict between guided and unguided chinook salmon anglers on the Kenai River. The division is taking steps to allow for better dissemination of biological information and facilitation of communication and interaction among the user groups so that "win-win" management strategies can be developed and forwarded to the Board of Fisheries for consideration. We are also conducting surveys of user groups to assess angler satisfaction and demand. This process of obtaining information for fishery managers may form a template for approaching these conflicts in other areas of the state.

Implementation of the Sustainable Salmon Fisheries Policy (5 AAC 39.222), the Salmon Escapement Goal Policy (5 AAC 39.223), and the Policy for the Management of Sustainable Wild Trout (5 AAC 75.222) continue to be issues on which the department and the Board of Fisheries are working. These policies will help ensure the sustainability of the state's salmon and trout stocks.

Halibut are a very important resource to sport fisheries across coastal Alaska. The North Pacific Fisheries Management Council manages all fishing for halibut, including sport fishing. The state sport fish program continues to work with the International Pacific Halibut Commission to collect baseline biological data and with the Council to assure halibut stocks are managed for long-term sustainability.

Management of recreational chinook salmon fisheries in Southeast Alaska is made more complex by the constraints associated with the U.S./Canada Pacific Salmon Treaty, the Endangered Species Act (ESA), and allocation conflict among users. Maintaining the existing sport fishery in light of these complex restraints requires very precise and extensive harvest monitoring as well as participation in the technical processes of the treaty and ESA. Chinook salmon enhancement and intensive stock assessment projects are the primary means of increasing angling opportunity and harvest.

Federal oversight of subsistence fishing on federal public lands and waters is resulting in a loss of sport fishing opportunity across Alaska. Federal agencies have closed state managed sport and subsistence fisheries for chinook and chum salmon in the Yukon and Kuskokwim River drainages and for sockeye at Falls Lake, Gut Bay, Pillar Bay, and Redoubt Lake in southeast Alaska and have eliminated the use of nets in state managed subsistence fisheries in the Sarkar River. The state sport fish program will strive to bring the best available scientific information to the federal subsistence decision-making process in an effort to maintain as much sport fishing opportunity as possible while assuring a subsistence priority and sustained yield.

Because of land management policies on some federal as well as private lands, it is increasingly difficult to maintain access to all sport fisheries in Alaska. The division maintains an active program to assure physical and legal access to fisheries throughout Alaska is maintained. Addressing these situations as they arise assures that angler access is maintained and, where practical, expanded.

The division will continue with year 4 of a four-year anadromous fish habitat assessment in Southcentral and Interior/Northern Alaska under a \$1 million Coastal Impact Assistance Program grant. Extensive anadromous fish surveys and habitat evaluations will be conducted in the Middle Susitna River drainage, Bristol Bay, Copper River and other priority drainages. The Kachemak Bay Research Reserve will continue to develop long-term research, oceanographic monitoring, education, outreach, and interpretive programs for Kachemak Bay and Lower Cook Inlet. Work continued on updating the Restoration Guide, specifically for evaluating restoration projects on the Kenai Peninsula. Work will continue with off-road vehicle (ORV) dealers and users and landowners on the lower Kenai Peninsula to reduce impacts of ORV trails on fish streams and water quality. Review of hydroelectric development proposals to avoid or minimize adverse effects on fish habitats and human users of fish will also continue.

The division also houses the department's habitat permitting and review responsibilities that resulted from Executive Order 107. Major land and water development projects are reviewed to assure that development of our state's resources occur without significant impact to fish and wildlife and their uses. Additionally, Alaska's special areas are managed in accordance with their statutory mandates.

Significant Changes in Results to be Delivered in FY2006

The main focus of the Division of Sport Fish RDU in FY06 will be to address issues associated with the eminent loss of hatchery fish production. The division currently operates two hatcheries in Alaska and provides funds to private non-profit hatcheries in southeast Alaska. Production from these hatcheries:

- Accounts for between 10-15% of all the angling effort in Alaska.
- Contributes about \$45 million annually to the Alaska economy.
- Accounts for about 25% of the chinook salmon harvest in Southcentral Alaska.
- Accounts for about 25% of all the chinook salmon harvested in Southeast Alaska.
- Accounts for 30-35% of the days fished in Interior Alaska and 70% of the fish harvested in the Tanana River basin.
- Accounts for about 50% of the rainbow trout harvest statewide.
- Reduces pressure on wild stocks, thereby adding to conservation for fully utilized stocks.

The existing two hatchery facilities are unable to meet both current as well as projected future demand. Failure to address this issue in a timely manner will demand increased annual expenditures to maintain aging facilities; increase pressure on wild stocks, many of which are fully allocated; and, increase our need to monitor and assess wild stocks and associated fisheries.

Hatchery operations are essential and will continue. Existing hatchery facilities need to be upgraded or replaced. A new hatchery is needed in Fairbanks and the Anchorage facilities either need to be refurbished or replaced. This will necessitate both increased capital and operational expenditures. We are asking for a license fee increase to raise about \$4 millions dollars to address these needs. Without an increase in revenues, we will be forced to reduce expenditures

on other programs which are essential to fulfilling our mission and measures. These reductions could include:

- Reduced ability to monitor stocks and fisheries statewide. This will result in more conservative management and potential lost fishing opportunity.
- Reduced ability to assess and restore damaged habitats statewide. This will result in reduced production and associated sport fishing opportunity.
- Reduced ability to support management activities statewide. This will result in reduced public outreach.

The division will also implement a new law mandating a licensing requirement for sport fishing businesses and guides. This new law will provide needed management data for the department and will assure a more professional guide industry by standardizing requirements. The Division of Sport Fish is currently working to implement this program by its effective date of January 1, 2005.

The division is also working to expand its habitat monitoring restoration program. Specifically, the division is building programs to assure critical habitats are inventoried and cataloged. The division is also working to restore damaged habitats and fish passage. Finally, the division is working with ADNR to assure that instream flows are protected to provide for the sustainability of fish and wildlife and their uses. The goal of these programs is to assure that development of our state's natural resources is done responsibly.

Major RDU Accomplishments in 2004

Research and Technical Services (RTS)

Since 1977, the division's Research and Technical Services unit has annually estimated sport fishing effort, harvest, and catch in all areas of the state. Division staff use these estimates to determine trends in fishing pressure and harvest. Regulatory bodies use them to create regulations to assure sustained yield. Biometricians in RTS provided technical support for over 120 stock assessment and research projects for the division. Biometricians, fisheries scientists, and fisheries biologists in RTS served on committees reviewing the department's escapement goals and represented the state on national and international technical committees. Other RTS staff provided editorial and cataloging services for technical reports produced by the divisions of Sport Fish and Commercial Fisheries. RTS staff monitored and reported harvest in several personal-use fisheries through a permitting program. An established program concerning harvest by, and registration of, saltwater guides was expanded as per legislative mandate to cover freshwater guides and to cover licensing of boats used in all guiding businesses. RTS staff were instrumental in establishing minimal levels of instream flows for fish production in streams in SE Alaska proposed for hydropower development. RTS and divisional staff worked in concert to publish scientific works on development of salmon escapement goals and salmon species identification using sonar in national and international journals.

Region I: Southeast

The SE king salmon management plan was successfully implemented during the 2004 fishing season. The preliminary harvest was 87,500 chinook salmon of which 67,000 counted toward the treaty quota. Stock assessment programs continued in all major king and coho salmon producing rivers in SE Alaska. Escapement goals for king salmon were met or exceeded in 10 of 11 index streams, and met or exceeded in all major coho salmon streams. A new steelhead stock assessment project was implemented at Sitkoh Creek to determine specific steelhead life history characteristics, develop a methodology for establishing escapement goals, and evaluate the habitat needs for steelhead. A new program to estimate halibut harvest and sample age and size characteristics was successfully implemented throughout Southeast during 2004. A U.S. Canada funded project was implemented for genetic sampling of legal and sub-legal chinook salmon harvested in SE sport fisheries. This project will allow accurate identification of the stock origin of fish caught in the regional sport fisheries. The division completed mapping of habitat characteristics and spawning sites for all steelhead, coho, and chinook escapement index systems in the region.

Region II: Southcentral

Regulatory issues were addressed for Bristol Bay in December 2003, where minor adjustments to the Nushagak/Mulchatna River Chinook Salmon Management Plan were made, as well as making area wide regulations consistent on how chinook salmon must be handled prior to release. Staff continued to work on two long-term rainbow trout programs, one in the Susitna River drainage and the other in Wood/Tikchik Lakes, which are designed to identify spawning and over wintering areas as well as migratory corridors. Data from these programs is increasing the division's knowledge of rainbow trout and will allow for responsible development in these areas while assuring stocks are managed for sustained yield. The field portion of a multiyear chinook salmon research project on the Naknek River was completed in 2004, with final reports left to complete. On the Kenai Peninsula, research staff continue to evaluate the effectiveness of using Didson riverine sonar to monitor chinook and sockeye salmon escapements. Refinement of this state-of-the-art research tool will have statewide implications for salmon managers. Hatchery staff have diligently kept

production levels at or near requests despite losing hot water sources due to Fort Richardson shutting down their power plant. A similar loss of hot water at the Elmendorf Hatchery is anticipated to occur in the near future. A contract was awarded to estimate costs of replacing existing outdated hatchery facilities versus bringing current facilities up to code.

Region III: Interior

Staff addressed regulatory issues at the Arctic-Yukon-Kuskowkwim Board of Fisheries meeting in 2004. Notable regulatory changes were adoption of Fishery Management Plans for Arctic grayling and stocked waters. Both management and research staff were involved in reviewing and updating salmon escapement goals throughout the area that were presented to the BOF. Regional staff participated in numerous meetings dealing with federal subsistence issues and staff continues to conduct a wide variety of research projects that are of benefit to subsistence, commercial, and sport fishermen. Several of these projects are funded with federal subsistence funds.

Statewide: Habitat Permitting, Restoration, and Assessment

With the elimination of the Habitat and Restoration Division, the Division of Sport Fish took over responsibility for issuance of permits on the state's special areas. The division continues to permit 85% of applications for activities proposed in special area within 30 days. In addition, existing management plans for the state's special areas have been reviewed and prioritized for updating. The division is currently working on an update on two plans that are out-of-date. A cost-share program in existence since 1995 is being expanded. This program provides funding for private landowner bank habitat restoration projects on the Kenai River. The Fish Distribution Database and Anadromous Stream Catalog was updated to include anadromous waters identified through 2003. Ongoing research and restoration projects include: revisions and an update to the 1998 Streambank Restoration Guide; inventory and restoration of fish passage blockages; and, an ATV trail assessment and planning for the lower Kenai Peninsula. A project to identify and catalog anadromous fish habitat in large areas of southcentral and southwest Alaska resulted in over 200 additions to the Fish Distribution Database. All government oil spill contingency plans and new industry contingency plans were reviewed.

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Sport Fisheries
RDU Financial Summary by Component

All dollars shown in thousands

	FY2004 Actuals				FY2005 Management Plan				FY2006 Governor			
	General Funds	Federal Funds	Other Funds	Total Funds	General Funds	Federal Funds	Other Funds	Total Funds	General Funds	Federal Funds	Other Funds	Total Funds
Formula Expenditures												
None.												
Non-Formula Expenditures												
Sport Fisheries	0.0	11,560.6	12,184.0	23,744.6	0.0	13,229.3	12,868.2	26,097.5	0.0	13,422.6	12,969.9	26,392.5
S.F. Special Projects	0.0	1,706.1	3,217.0	4,923.1	0.0	2,875.0	3,979.8	6,854.8	31.4	5,377.4	4,801.7	10,210.5
Sport Fisheries Habitat	265.9	688.5	1,758.7	2,713.1	266.0	2,650.4	3,069.8	5,986.2	290.7	2,235.8	3,818.2	6,344.7
Assert/Protect State's Rights	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	240.9	240.9	0.0	0.0	230.3	230.3
Totals	265.9	13,955.2	17,159.7	31,380.8	266.0	18,754.7	20,158.7	39,179.4	322.1	21,035.8	21,820.1	43,178.0

Sport Fisheries
Summary of RDU Budget Changes by Component
From FY2005 Management Plan to FY2006 Governor

All dollars shown in thousands

	<u>General Funds</u>	<u>Federal Funds</u>	<u>Other Funds</u>	<u>Total Funds</u>
FY2005 Management Plan	266.0	18,754.7	20,158.7	39,179.4
Adjustments which will continue current level of service:				
-Sport Fisheries	0.0	193.3	114.0	307.3
-S.F. Special Projects	31.4	1,338.8	141.3	1,511.5
-Sport Fisheries Habitat	24.7	-414.6	-357.2	-747.1
-Assert/Protect State's Rights	0.0	0.0	-10.6	-10.6
Proposed budget decreases:				
-Sport Fisheries	0.0	0.0	-12.3	-12.3
-Sport Fisheries Habitat	0.0	0.0	-109.6	-109.6
Proposed budget increases:				
-S.F. Special Projects	0.0	1,163.6	680.6	1,844.2
-Sport Fisheries Habitat	0.0	0.0	1,215.2	1,215.2
FY2006 Governor	322.1	21,035.8	21,820.1	43,178.0