

# **State of Alaska FY2009 Governor's Operating Budget**

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

## Component: Westward Region Fisheries Management

### Contribution to Department's Mission

The Westward Region contributes to the department's mission by 1) ensuring the conservation of natural stocks of fish, shellfish and aquatic plants based on scientifically sound assessments; 2) sustaining fisheries based on the control and regulation of harvests through responsive management systems; 3) increasing fishery harvests and harvest opportunities of fish, shellfish and aquatic plants through the investigation of maximum sustained yield for individual and aggregate populations; 4) expanding fishery potential through identification of underutilized species/stocks of fish, shellfish and aquatic plants; 5) maintaining and enhancing opportunities for public participation in the development of fishery management plans and harvest regulations; 6) developing and maintaining comprehensive databases on commercial, subsistence and personal use harvests, and associated processing of fish, shellfish, and aquatic plants; and 7) promoting public education on the conservation, production, and economic and social benefits of yields from fish, shellfish, and aquatic plants.

### Core Services

The Westward Region is responsible for management of existing commercial and subsistence 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 has a major role in the management of shellfish and groundfish fisheries in state and federal waters of the 200-mile Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).

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 nearly \$210 million in exvessel value during 2007.

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 encompass the EEZ into the Gulf of Alaska, Bristol Bay and the Bering Sea, were worth in excess of \$110 million in 2007. Annually 2 to 4 of the largest ports, in terms of the amount product landed and exvessel value, in the entire United States are located in the Westward Region.

The fisheries comprise a complex and diverse 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 functions are 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 of various stocks and allowable harvest level on them.
- Development of preseason forecasts and salmon escapement goals.
- Manipulation of the fisheries in-season by time and area, to attain reproductive and harvest goals.
- Dissemination of information to the public, including fisheries information, complex regulatory plans, harvest policies, management plans, as well as highly technical reports based on the results of applied research programs.
- Issue of subsistence permits, assisting the Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission with permit transactions, assisting the Department of Natural Resources with permit reviews, and assisting the Department of Public Safety with fish and wildlife violations.
- Operation of six area offices, 25 data collection field camps, two research vessels and four aircraft.

**FY2009 Resources Allocated to Achieve Results**

**FY2009 Component Budget: \$7,434,100**

**Personnel:**

Full time	39
Part time	71
<b>Total</b>	<b>110</b>

**Key Component Challenges**

Stable funding in FY09 and beyond is the needed. Federally funded shellfish and groundfish research and management staff supervise and perform fishery monitoring, data collection, and analyses needed for abundance-based management of commercial shellfish and groundfish stocks throughout the region. Maintenance of these programs with a reliable source of funding is crucial. The division is anticipating federal reductions within several long-term grants in FY09, including the crab research grant, eroding even current capabilities.

Other component challenges continue to be:

Providing for new, recovering, and developing fisheries is a key challenge, while maintaining a core program on existing fisheries.

- Complex mixed salmon stock and species fisheries and harvest management plans are placed under heavy demands by competing user groups, particularly in Kodiak and the Alaska Peninsula.
- Attempts to streamline the salmon industry, whether through cooperative or combined fisheries or other cost-saving mechanisms, will require innovative adaptation in existing management programs.
- In prior years funding was eliminated for collapsed shellfish fisheries. As those fisheries recover, funding for research and management is needed to determine the distribution, abundance and productivity of red, blue and golden king and Tanner crab stocks and shrimp stocks are needed to monitor recovery of stocks and set biologically based harvest limits. The Region has had to rely on obtaining federal grants to meet much of those research and management needs; anticipated future reductions in federal grants will add to the challenge of meeting those needs.
- As concerns for threatened and endangered marine mammals mount (e.g., for Steller sea lions, sea otters and potentially harbor seals and polar bears), additional attention will need to be paid to interactions with commercial fisheries.
- The recent rationalization of Bering Sea and Aleutian Island crab fisheries, and planning for rationalization of groundfish fisheries in the Gulf of Alaska, challenges both our scientific and management abilities given the sweeping nature of these programs.
- Revisions to the federal “overfishing” definitions and stock status assessment process for Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands crab fisheries will add increased demands for analysis, reporting, and data-gathering by our researchers and managers and may result in a more stringent state-federal process for considering openings of small-scale or exploratory fisheries.
- Anticipated expiration of a statute limiting entry of new vessels within the state-waters weathervane scallop fishery will pose new challenges for sustainable management of the Shelikof District fishery (the major bed in the district is divided by the border for state-federal waters) and will require working closely with federal officials on any necessary changes in management practices to ensure that the state retains the delegated management of the fishery in federal waters.
- Transference of dark rockfish fishery in the Gulf of Alaska from federal management to management by the State of Alaska will require will require development of new management measures and assumption of new management and research responsibilities by Regional staff.

**Significant Changes in Results to be Delivered in FY2009**

There are no changes in the results to be delivered in the Westward Region in FY09.

## Major Component Accomplishments in 2007

- The Westward Region has managed all 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. Testing of developing and new techniques (e.g., hydroacoustic survey of herring biomass and video survey of weathervane scallops) and efforts to gather an effective baseline of genetic standards for salmon stock identification were continued. Development of an expanded research program for Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands crab fisheries was continued with St. Matthew blue king crab and Petrel Bank red king crab. Effort continues to expand our ability to assess scallop stocks and the status of various nearshore species such as rockfish, Dungeness crab, urchins, and horse clams and to classify and map marine fisheries habitat.
- 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 state and federal fishery enforcement agencies. The region continues to transit into the new management and catch data reporting programs imposed by rationalization of crab fisheries in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands and groundfish fisheries and is preparing to move into new reporting programs for finfish fisheries.
- The salmon fishery resources of the Westward Region are diverse and abundant. There are hundreds of anadromous streams in the region that produce one or more of the five species of Pacific salmon that support subsistence and commercial fisheries; the recent ten-year average annual harvest has been approximately 38 million fish. One noteworthy accomplishment in 2007 was the first directed commercial salmon harvest in the Outer Port Heiden area since 1990. Approximately 55 stocks of Pacific herring are monitored annually to support commercial bait and sac roe fisheries.
- In 2007 commercial fisheries occurred from the northern Kodiak archipelago to Adak and Port Heiden, including the Bering Sea and Gulf of Alaska and biological attributes of harvested stocks were collected.

## Statutory and Regulatory Authority

AS 16 Fish and Game  
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### Contact Information

**Contact:** John Hilsinger, Division Director  
**Phone:** (907) 465-4210  
**Fax:** (907) 465-2604  
**E-mail:** john.hilsinger@alaska.gov

**Westward Region Fisheries Management  
Component Financial Summary**

*All dollars shown in thousands*

	FY2007 Actuals	FY2008 Management Plan	FY2009 Governor
<b>Non-Formula Program:</b>			
<b>Component Expenditures:</b>			
71000 Personal Services	4,773.2	5,123.9	5,296.6
72000 Travel	162.5	258.6	258.6
73000 Services	934.6	1,253.4	1,233.5
74000 Commodities	757.3	626.0	626.0
75000 Capital Outlay	66.3	19.4	19.4
77000 Grants, Benefits	0.0	0.0	0.0
78000 Miscellaneous	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>Expenditure Totals</b>	<b>6,693.9</b>	<b>7,281.3</b>	<b>7,434.1</b>
<b>Funding Sources:</b>			
1004 General Fund Receipts	5,551.6	5,436.4	5,589.2
1036 Commercial Fishing Loan Fund	412.8	412.8	412.8
1109 Test Fisheries Receipts	729.5	1,432.1	1,432.1
<b>Funding Totals</b>	<b>6,693.9</b>	<b>7,281.3</b>	<b>7,434.1</b>

**Estimated Revenue Collections**

Description	Master Revenue Account	FY2007 Actuals	FY2008 Management Plan	FY2009 Governor
<b>Unrestricted Revenues</b>				
Commercial Fishing Loan Fund	51100	412.8	412.8	412.8
<b>Unrestricted Total</b>		<b>412.8</b>	<b>412.8</b>	<b>412.8</b>
<b>Restricted Revenues</b>				
Test Fisheries Receipts	51064	729.5	1,432.1	1,432.1
<b>Restricted Total</b>		<b>729.5</b>	<b>1,432.1</b>	<b>1,432.1</b>
<b>Total Estimated Revenues</b>		<b>1,142.3</b>	<b>1,844.9</b>	<b>1,844.9</b>

**Summary of Component Budget Changes  
From FY2008 Management Plan to FY2009 Governor**

*All dollars shown in thousands*

	<u>General Funds</u>	<u>Federal Funds</u>	<u>Other Funds</u>	<u>Total Funds</u>
<b>FY2008 Management Plan</b>	<b>5,436.4</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>1,844.9</b>	<b>7,281.3</b>
<b>Adjustments which will continue current level of service:</b>				
-Correct Unrealizable Fund Sources for Salary Adjustments: GGU	21.2	0.0	-21.2	0.0
-Remove funding for fuel/utility cost increases received in the FY2008 budget	-19.9	0.0	0.0	-19.9
-FY 09 Bargaining Unit Contract Terms: General Government Unit	150.3	0.0	21.2	171.5
-FY 09 Bargaining Unit Contract Terms: Labor Trades and Crafts Unit	1.2	0.0	0.0	1.2
<b>FY2009 Governor</b>	<b>5,589.2</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>1,844.9</b>	<b>7,434.1</b>

**Westward Region Fisheries Management  
Personal Services Information**

Authorized Positions		Personal Services Costs		
	<u>FY2008</u> <u>Management</u> <u>Plan</u>	<u>FY2009</u> <u>Governor</u>		
Full-time	39	39	Annual Salaries	3,092,542
Part-time	71	71	COLA	162,440
Nonpermanent	0	0	Premium Pay	330,988
			Annual Benefits	1,877,961
			<i>Less 3.06% Vacancy Factor</i>	(167,331)
			Lump Sum Premium Pay	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>Total Personal Services</b>	<b>5,296,600</b>

**Position Classification Summary**

Job Class Title	Anchorage	Fairbanks	Juneau	Others	Total
Accounting Clerk II	0	0	0	1	1
Accounting Tech II	0	0	0	1	1
Administrative Assistant	0	0	0	1	1
Administrative Clerk II	0	0	0	2	2
Administrative Clerk III	0	0	0	3	3
Administrative Officer I	0	0	0	1	1
Aircraft Pilot I	0	0	0	2	2
Analyst/Programmer IV	0	0	0	1	1
Biometrician III	0	0	0	1	1
Boat Officer I	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	1	1
F&W Technician II	0	0	0	19	19
F&W Technician III	0	0	0	21	21
Fish & Game Program Tech	0	0	0	1	1
Fishery Biologist I	11	0	0	12	23
Fishery Biologist II	0	0	0	12	12
Fishery Biologist III	0	0	0	9	9
Fishery Biologist IV	0	0	0	4	4
Maint Spec Bfc Journey I	0	0	0	1	1
Publications Spec II	0	0	0	1	1
<b>Totals</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>110</b>