

State of Alaska
FY2010 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

- **Fisheries Management:** The division ensures the sustained use of Alaska's recreational fisheries while optimizing social and economic benefits.
- **Fisheries Research:** The division maintains and promotes excellence in conducting scientifically sound research in support of managing Alaska's recreational fisheries.
- **Fisheries Enhancement:** The division optimizes and diversifies recreational fishing opportunities via supplemental production of hatchery-reared fish.
- **Angler Access:** The division maintains and improves public access to recreational fisheries resources.
- **Information and Education Services:** The division informs and educates the public about recreational fisheries management, recreational fishing opportunities, and angling skills with an emphasis on exceptional customer service.
- **Fish Habitat:** The division conserves and maintains habitat to sustain recreational fisheries resources.
- **Workforce Support:** The division provides exceptional support to our workforce to attain the Division's vision and goals.

| End Result | Strategies to Achieve End Result |
|--|--|
| <p>A: Sustain recreational fishing opportunities while optimizing social and economic benefits from these opportunities.</p> <p><u>Target #1:</u> Provide 2.5 million angler days and sell 450,000 licenses. <u>Status #1:</u> In 2007, 498,000 licenses were sold, which is 11% over the target of 450,000 and a 13% increase since 2003. Licensed and unlicensed (anyone under the age of 16 and Alaska residents 60 or older who hold an ADF&G Permanent Identification Card) anglers spent an estimated 2,544,000 days fishing, which is 2% over the target of 2,500,000, an 11% increase since 2006, and a 15% increase since 2003.</p> <p><u>Target #2:</u> A positive trend in sport fishing trip-related expenditures as measured by the "Economic Significance of Sportfishing in Alaska" Survey. <u>Status #2:</u> Baseline data related to 2007 sport fishing trip-related expenditures will be reported in December 2008 upon completion of the "Economic Significance of Sportfishing in Alaska" Survey. A trend will be established when the survey is repeated.</p> <p><u>Target #3:</u> Increase to at least 75% the number of anglers that are satisfied with their sport fishing experiences. <u>Status #3:</u> Among licensed anglers in 2007, 81.3% were satisfied with their sport fishing experiences, exceeding</p> | <p>A1: Maintain recreational fishing opportunities via supplemental hatchery production.</p> <p><u>Target #1:</u> Maintain the number actively stocked (currently being stocked according to the stocking plan, but not necessarily on an annual basis) lakes with hatchery fish at a level equal to or greater than the 1999-2003 average. <u>Status #1:</u> There were 261 lakes actively stocked with hatchery fish in 2007, compared to the average of 295.6 lakes in 1999-2003, so the target was not met.</p> <p><u>Target #2:</u> Maintain the number of enhanced anadromous salmon fisheries actively stocked with hatchery fish at a level equal to or greater than the 1999-2003 average. <u>Status #2:</u> There were 36 anadromous salmon fisheries actively stocked with hatchery fish in 2007, which exceeds the target of 34.2 fisheries (the 1999-2003 average).</p> <p>A2: Conserve, manage, maintain, and enhance habitat to sustain fish resources.</p> <p><u>Target #1:</u> Annually enhance five miles of priority-catalogued fish habitat by improving fish passage. <u>Status #1:</u> In FY 2008, culverts were replaced at five locations on the Kenai Peninsula to improve fish passage, resulting in 3.1 miles of enhanced priority</p> |

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| <p>the target of 75%.</p> | <p>catalogued fish habitat, which does not meet the target of five miles.</p> <p><u>Target #2:</u> Annually rehabilitate or protect at least 1,500 feet of stream bank and riparian habitat. <u>Status #2:</u> There were 2,832 feet of stream bank and riparian habitat rehabilitated or protected in FY 2008, which exceeds the target of 1,500 feet.</p> <p>A3: Manage Alaska's special areas in accordance with legislative guidelines.</p> <p><u>Target #1:</u> Increase by one the number of special management areas that have current management plans. <u>Status #1:</u> During FY 2008, management plans were revised for two special management areas (McNeil River State Game Refuge and McNeil River State Game Sanctuary), which exceeds the target of revising or developing one management plan annually.</p> <p>A4: To maintain and improve access to public resources.</p> <p><u>Target #1:</u> Complete a total of five priority boating access projects* per year over a five-year period. <u>Status #1:</u> Five priority boating access projects were completed in 2004, four in 2005, six in 2006, five in 2007, and five in 2008. Except for 2005, this meets the target of five projects completed per year over a five-year period.</p> <p><u>Target #2:</u> Review 100% of legal access related documents received (ANCSA conveyances, native allotment conveyances, municipal conveyances, subdivision plats and section line easements) within specified timeframes. <u>Status #2:</u> Over 99% of all federal, state, and municipal/borough land actions (excluding those subject to ANILCA provisions) were reviewed within the required timeframes to identify those actions that potentially affect public access to fish and wildlife resources in FY 2008. This falls slightly short of meeting the target of reviewing 100% of such land actions within the required timeframes.</p> <p>A5: Inform and educate the public about management-related issues, recreational fishing opportunities, angling skills, and conservation of Alaska's aquatic species.</p> <p><u>Target #1:</u> Maintain participation at 5,000 participants in angling-skills-oriented programs annually. <u>Status #1:</u> There were 30,221 participants in angling-skills-oriented programs in FY 2008, which far exceeds the target of 5,000 participants.</p> |
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Major Activities to Advance Strategies

- 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.
- Manage enhancement program to preserve sustained yield from wild stocks.
- Manage populations of aquatic nuisance species to preserve sustained yield from wild stocks.
- Develop a range of fishing opportunities, recognizing variation among anglers relative to income, age, experience, and ability.
- Publicize fishing opportunities.
- Enhance fisheries to meet demand, consistent with existing department policies.
- Support regular communications (phone contacts, meetings, etc.) with stakeholders to discuss management and research activities.
- 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.
- Review and develop policies and regulations, and provide advice on laws to ensure responsible land and water development.
- Develop and review criteria on the quantity and quality of water needed to sustain fish, wildlife and vegetation.
- Develop and implement research programs to assess the relationships between fish production and associated habitats.
- Evaluate constraints on fishing participation and develop approaches for addressing management related constraints.
- Foster a work environment where decision making skills are recognized, developed, and authorities are clearly defined.
- Assert Alaska's sovereignty to manage the state's fishery resources.

FY2010 Resources Allocated to Achieve Results

FY2010 Results Delivery Unit Budget: \$47,652,000

Personnel:

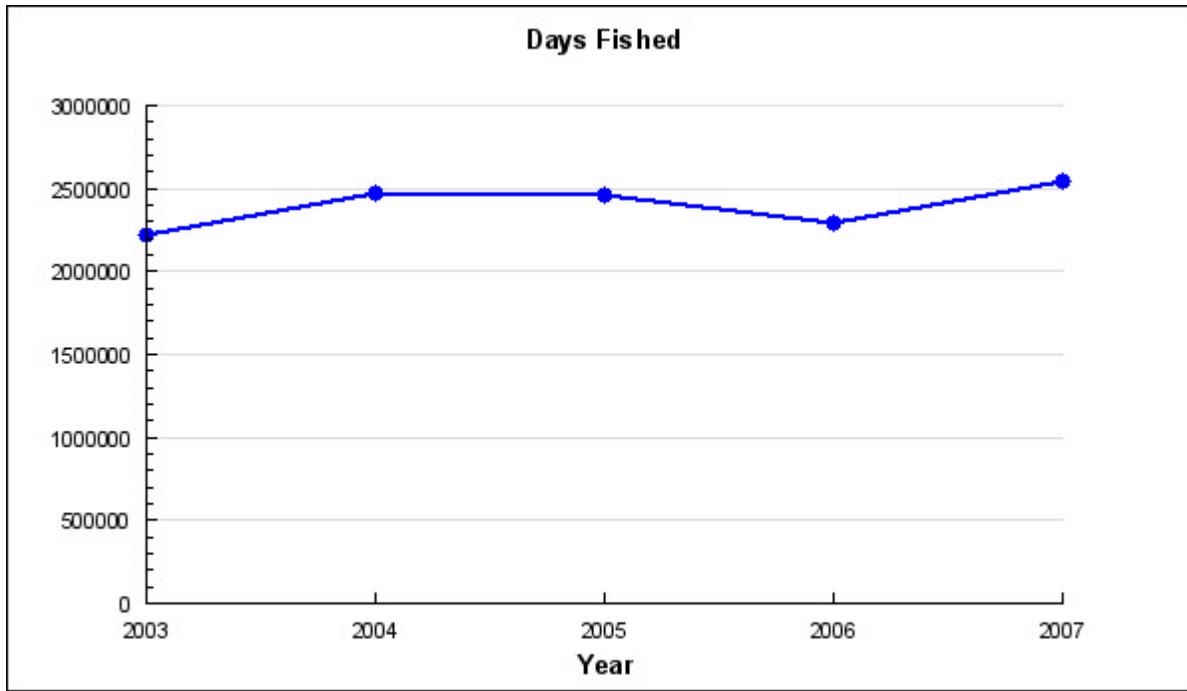
| | |
|--------------|------------|
| Full time | 233 |
| Part time | 206 |
| Total | 439 |

Performance

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

Target #1: Provide 2.5 million angler days and sell 450,000 licenses.

Status #1: In 2007, 498,000 licenses were sold, which is 11% over the target of 450,000 and a 13% increase since 2003. Licensed and unlicensed (anyone under the age of 16 and Alaska residents 60 or older who hold an ADF&G Permanent Identification Card) anglers spent an estimated 2,544,000 days fishing, which is 2% over the target of 2,500,000, an 11% increase since 2006, and a 15% increase since 2003.



Methodology: Number of licenses sold was obtained from the Licensing section of the Division of Administrative Services, Department of Fish and Game. Estimates of days fished are derived from the sport fish statewide harvest survey, which is mailed annually to a random sample of resident and non-resident licensed anglers.

Days Fished

| Year | YTD Total |
|------|-----------|
| 2007 | 2543674 |
| 2006 | 2297961 |
| 2005 | 2463929 |
| 2004 | 2473961 |
| 2003 | 2219398 |

Analysis of results and challenges: Angler participation, as indexed by the number of licenses sold and number of days fished, continues to exhibit a slightly increasing trend.

Target #2: A positive trend in sport fishing trip-related expenditures as measured by the "Economic Significance of Sportfishing in Alaska" Survey.

Status #2: Baseline data related to 2007 sport fishing trip-related expenditures will be reported in December 2008 upon completion of the "Economic Significance of Sportfishing in Alaska" Survey. A trend will be established when the survey is repeated.

Analysis of results and challenges: Formerly, trip-related expenditures were measured by the National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife-Associated Recreation, which is conducted every five years. However we no longer

believe the estimates from that survey are accurate for Alaska because they are not consistent with other indices of sport fishing participation (2001-2006 license sales records and the annual "ADF&G Statewide Harvest Survey"). For this reason we plan to report estimates from the ADF&G "Economic Significance of Sportfishing in Alaska" survey in December 2008. Upon completion of the second such survey, scheduled for 2012, trend information will be once again available.

Target #3: Increase to at least 75% the number of anglers that are satisfied with their sport fishing experiences.

Status #3: Among licensed anglers in 2007, 81.3% were satisfied with their sport fishing experiences, exceeding the target of 75%.

Sport Angler Satisfaction

| Year | Resident | Non-resident |
|------|----------|--------------|
| 2007 | 72.1 | 85.1 |
| 1997 | 64.4 | 81.8 |

Methodology: 2007 numbers are preliminary estimates from a Sport Fish Division survey on the Economic Significance of Sportfishing in Alaska.

1997 estimates are from Romberg, W. J. (1999: Market segmentation, preferences, and management attitudes of Alaska nonresident anglers. Masters thesis, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Blacksburg, Virginia).

Analysis of results and challenges: Among resident and non-resident licensed anglers, 72.1% and 85.1%, respectively, were generally or very satisfied with their 2007 sport fishing experiences. This compares to 64.4% and 81.8% for resident and non-resident anglers from a 1997 survey.

A1: Strategy - Maintain recreational fishing opportunities via supplemental hatchery production.

Target #1: Maintain the number actively stocked (currently being stocked according to the stocking plan, but not necessarily on an annual basis) lakes with hatchery fish at a level equal to or greater than the 1999-2003 average.

Status #1: There were 261 lakes actively stocked with hatchery fish in 2007, compared to the average of 295.6 lakes in 1999-2003, so the target was not met.

Actively-stocked Lakes

| Year | Region 1 | Region 2 | Region 3 | Total |
|--------|----------|----------|----------|-------|
| Target | 5.4 | 162.2 | 128 | 295.6 |
| 2007 | 1 | 140 | 120 | 261 |

Methodology: Numbers of actively-stocked lakes are monitored by Sport Fish Division regional supervisors and staff. Target numbers are 1999-2003 averages.

Analysis of results and challenges: In 2007, there were 1, 140, and 120 actively stocked lakes in Regions 1, 2, and 3, respectively. Loss of rearing capacity and disease concerns at state hatchery facilities resulted in lower production, thus not allowing the division to meet its stocking target. Completion of a new hatchery facility in Fairbanks in 2010 and construction of the Anchorage hatchery facility in 2011 will result in higher production of hatchery fish for stocking lakes.

Target #2: Maintain the number of enhanced anadromous salmon fisheries actively stocked with hatchery fish at a level equal to or greater than the 1999-2003 average.

Status #2: There were 36 anadromous salmon fisheries actively stocked with hatchery fish in 2007, which exceeds the target of 34.2 fisheries (the 1999-2003 average).

Actively-stocked Salmon Fisheries

| Year | Region 1 | Region 2 | Region 3 | Total |
|--------|----------|----------|----------|-------|
| Target | 9.4 | 24.8 | 0 | 34.2 |
| 2007 | 11 | 25 | 0 | 36 |

Methodology: Numbers of actively-stocked anadromous salmon fisheries are monitored by Sport Fish Division regional supervisors and staff. Target numbers are 1999-2003 averages.

Analysis of results and challenges: In 2007, there were 11, 25, and 0 actively stocked anadromous fisheries in Regions 1, 2, and 3, respectively. Despite loss of rearing capacity at state hatchery facilities resulting in lower production, the division was able to maintain the number of enhanced anadromous salmon fisheries actively stocked with hatchery fish.

A2: Strategy - Conserve, manage, maintain, and enhance habitat to sustain fish resources.

Target #1: Annually enhance five miles of priority-catalogued fish habitat by improving fish passage.

Status #1: In FY 2008, culverts were replaced at five locations on the Kenai Peninsula to improve fish passage, resulting in 3.1 miles of enhanced priority catalogued fish habitat, which does not meet the target of five miles.

Analysis of results and challenges: This is a new target developed for FY 2010 for which performance data is available for FY 2008. Since 2003, the Division has administered a program to improve fish passage by obtaining and administering outside funding to replace culverts that likely impair or impede fish passage. Prior to 2008, this program replaced from one to six culverts per year. These replacements effectively improved fish passage to upstream fish habitat, as documented in the "Catalog of Waters Important for the Spawning, Rearing, or Migration of Anadromous Fishes" (AWC), ranging from 1.2 to 9.4 miles each year. Culverts replaced in FY 2008 were located on the Oilfield Access Road (Breeze Lake Creek, 0.3 miles of enhanced habitat), PAD 21B-16 Road (Mink Creek, 1.3 miles), Swan Lake Road (Doghouse Creek and Swan Creek, 0.7 miles), and Skilak Lake Road (Hidden Creek, 0.8 miles).

Target #2: Annually rehabilitate or protect at least 1,500 feet of stream bank and riparian habitat.

Status #2: There were 2,832 feet of stream bank and riparian habitat rehabilitated or protected in FY 2008, which exceeds the target of 1,500 feet.

Analysis of results and challenges: This is a new target developed for FY 2010 for which performance data is available for FY 2008. Beginning in 2003, the Division implemented a cost share agreement to protect and restore fish habitat on the Kenai Peninsula. The program utilizes financial incentives for landowners and provides restoration workshops to fund and provide expertise to projects on private and public lands in support of this target.

From 2003 through 2007, installation of elevated light penetrating walkways and stairs, and cabled spruce tree revetments protected a minimum of approximately 1,500 feet of stream bank and riparian habitat annually. Bank revegetation and bioengineering projects rehabilitated an additional minimum of 240 feet annually. Combined, the outcomes of this project protected and/or rehabilitated approximately 1,900 to 6,000 feet of stream bank each year.

In 2008, 1,811 feet of stream bank was protected using a combination of cabled spruce trees and elevated, light penetrating grate walks (1,217 feet and 594 feet respectively). An additional 1,021 feet of riverbank was rehabilitated using bio-engineered techniques resulting in a total of 2,832 feet of river front rehabilitated or protected in 2008.

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

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

Status #1: During FY 2008, management plans were revised for two special management areas (McNeil River State Game Refuge and McNeil River State Game Sanctuary), which exceeds the target of revising or developing one management plan annually.

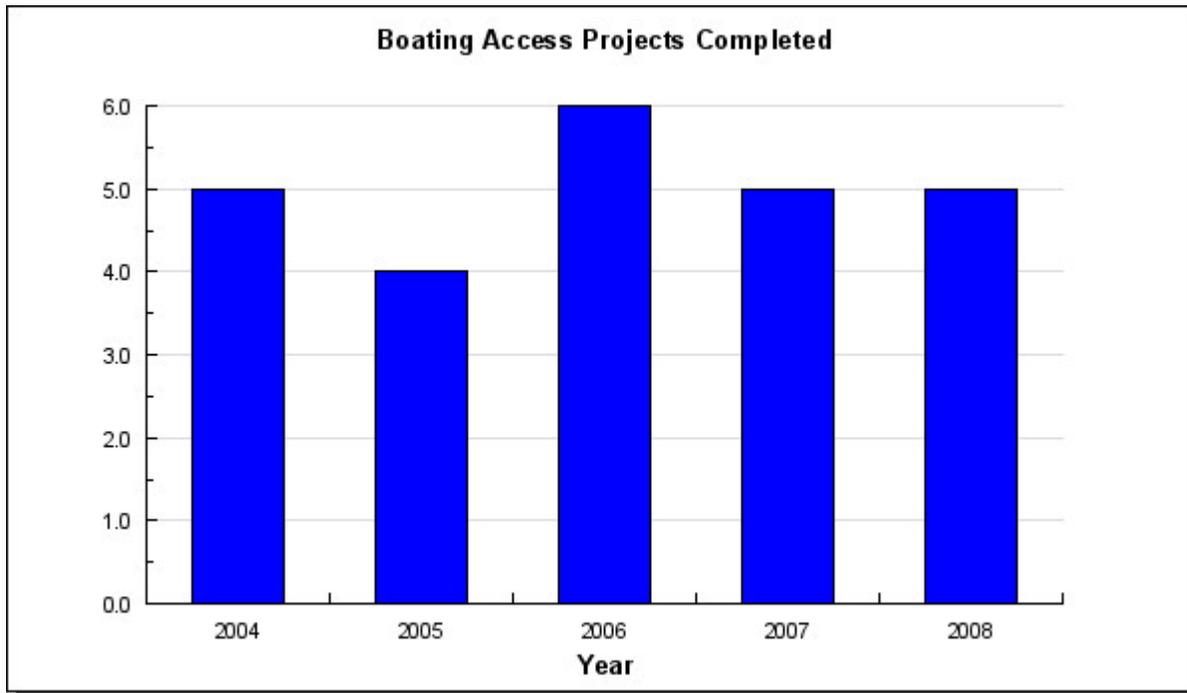
Analysis of results and challenges: ADF&G manages 32 Special Areas (12 refuges, 3 sanctuaries, and 17 critical habitat areas). The department has completed management plans for 14 areas; another area is managed via a DNR State Park plan; and one additional area is managed with an Interim Management Plan. The number of management plans had not increased in the previous five years (2003-2007), although a revision of one plan was completed in 2002 and the State Park management plan was revised in 2002. 16 Special Areas have no management plan.

In FY 2008, the department completed a revision of existing management plans for two areas: McNeil River State Game Refuge and McNeil River State Game Sanctuary. Additional progress was also made on the development of one new plan for Izembeck State Game Refuge.

A4: Strategy - To maintain and improve access to public resources.

Target #1: Complete a total of five priority boating access projects* per year over a five-year period.

Status #1: Five priority boating access projects were completed in 2004, four in 2005, six in 2006, five in 2007, and five in 2008. Except for 2005, this meets the target of five projects completed per year over a five-year period.



Methodology: Number of priority boating access projects completed over the five year period was obtained from the access program statewide inventory database. Information for the database is derived from grant information provided on the US Fish & Wildlife Service on-line Federal Aid Information Management System and from Department of Fish and Game regional access project managers.

Boating Access Projects Completed

| Year | YTD Total |
|------|-----------|
| 2008 | 5 |
| 2007 | 5 |
| 2006 | 6 |
| 2005 | 4 |
| 2004 | 5 |

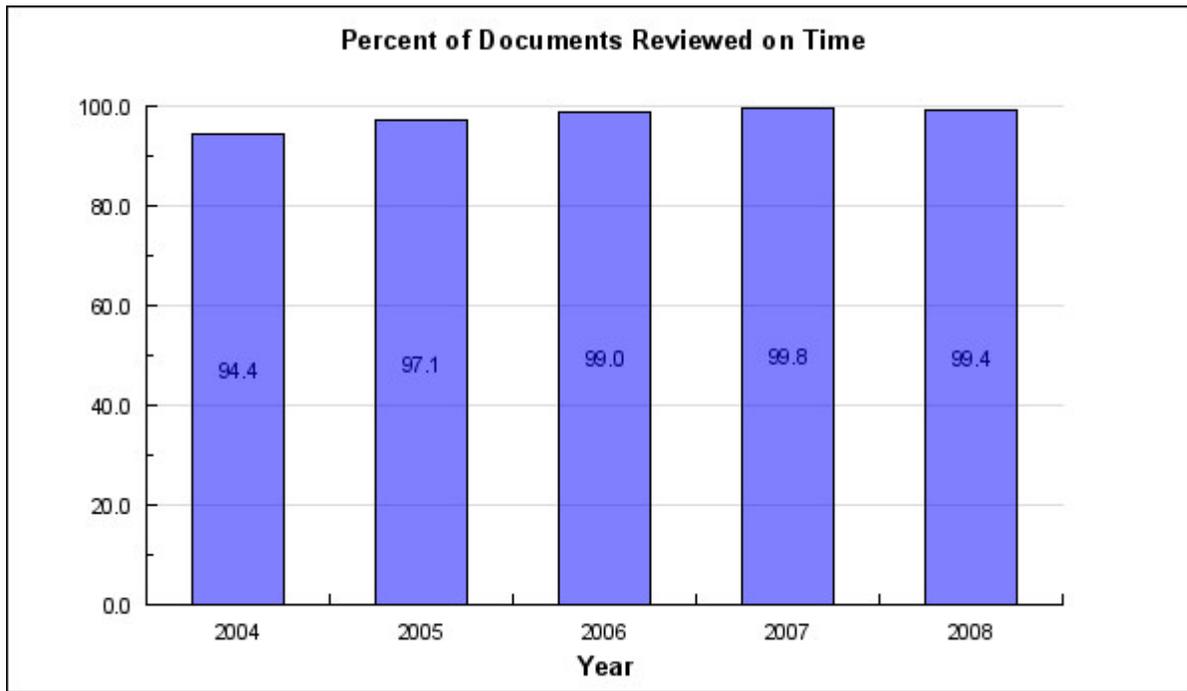
Analysis of results and challenges: *Definition of Boating Access Project is to construct, renovate, improve, and/or maintain access for marine or freshwater, trailerable, gasoline-powered boats that are less than 26 feet in length. Since a large portion of boating access funds comes from federal taxes on fuel and recreational power boats, project proposals that primarily benefit non-motorized boats (canoes, kayaks, and rafts) or diesel-powered boats do not qualify as recreational boating-related projects. Two other included power boating-related sub-grant programs consist of the Clean Vessel Act and the Boating Infrastructure Grant program.

Note that, formerly, the target was three boating access projects per year.

In FY 2008, the department completed five priority boating access projects: Heritage Harbor Boat Launch (Wrangell), Situk River Lower Landing Land Acquisition (Yakutat), Susitna Landing Boat Launch Riparian Improvements (Kashwitna/Willow), Salmon River Boat Launch Rehabilitation (Gustavus), and Anton Larsen Bay Boat launch (Kodiak).

Target #2: Review 100% of legal access related documents received (ANCSA conveyances, native allotment conveyances, municipal conveyances, subdivision plats and section line easements) within specified timeframes.

Status #2: Over 99% of all federal, state, and municipal/borough land actions (excluding those subject to ANILCA provisions) were reviewed within the required timeframes to identify those actions that potentially affect public access to fish and wildlife resources in FY 2008. This falls slightly short of meeting the target of reviewing 100% of such land actions within the required timeframes.



Methodology: Number of land actions received and reviewed is obtained from databases maintained by Department of Fish and Game, Sport Fish Access and Defense staff.

Percent of Documents Reviewed on Time

| Year | YTD Total |
|------|-----------|
| 2008 | 99.4 |
| 2007 | 99.8 |
| 2006 | 99 |
| 2005 | 97.1 |
| 2004 | 94.4 |

Analysis of results and challenges: In FY 2008, 1,728 ANCSA conveyances, native allotment conveyances, municipal conveyances, subdivision plats, and section line easements were received for review by ADF&G. Department staff review is conducted to ensure public access to fish and wildlife resources is maintained. Of the documents received, 1,717 (99%) were reviewed within time frames specified within each review process..

A5: Strategy - Inform and educate the public about management-related issues, recreational fishing opportunities, angling skills, and conservation of Alaska's aquatic species.

Target #1: Maintain participation at 5,000 participants in angling-skills-oriented programs annually.

Status #1: There were 30,221 participants in angling-skills-oriented programs in FY 2008, which far exceeds the target of 5,000 participants.

Participants in Angling Skill Oriented Programs

| Year | Region 1 | Region 2 | Region 3 | Other | Total |
|--------|----------|----------|----------|-------|-------|
| Target | | | | | 5000 |
| 2008 | 2624 | 24437 | 2912 | 248 | 30221 |

Methodology: The numbers of participants in these programs are monitored by Sport Fish Division regional supervisors and staff.

Analysis of results and challenges: This is a new target developed for FY 2010 for which performance data is available for FY 2008. An emphasis on angling-skills programming in FY 2008 has seemingly resulted in an increase to participation. However, that increase could also be a direct result of improved methods for data collection.

*Definition of angling-skills-oriented programs include BOW, Beyond BOW, Becoming and Outdoor Family, Mobile Aquatic Classroom, Salmon in the Classroom (4th-6th grade), Alaska Conservation Camp, Family/Kids Fishing Days and skills-related opportunities (e.g. invitational involvement with Boy Scout/Girl Scout camps, Upward Bound, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, 4-H, Boys & Girls Club, etc.). Angling-skills-related topics may include casting, knot tying, proper bait/lure, care and processing of catch, fishing techniques, appropriate gear, safety, fish identification, regulations, fly tying, reading the water, etc.

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:

- Management of harvests to ensure sustainability of the state's fishery resources according to regulatory board instruction and through 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).
- sustaining wild fish stocks targeted by recreational anglers;
- secure and maintain and secure satisfaction among resident anglers;
- constructing new hatcheries approved in 2005, while maintaining existing hatchery production;
- ensuring hunting and fishing public access as land is conveyed and restricted by federal land managers;
- assure resource development is done responsibly without undue affect on fish and wildlife and use; and
- minimize impact to other users while meeting the subsistence priority.

The Division's Fish and Game Fund projection through FY11 continues to show a declining fund balance in spite of concerted efforts initiated in FY08 to arrest this trend by converting project funding from Fish and Game Fund to Dingell-Johnson (federal) where appropriate. The trend is attributable to reduced license sales and king salmon stamp revenue (CY06 and CY08) contrasted with increased project costs (annual step increases, equipment, fuel, electricity and administrative) in addition to attempting to absorb operational costs for a new sport fish hatchery. In light of this environment, the division continues to employ a fiscally prudent approach to projecting Fish and Game fund revenue.

The division's Wildlife and Sport Fish Sport Fish Restoration (SFR) Program (Dingell-Johnson/Wallop-Breaux) represents approximately 73% of the division's federal receipt authority and is its main funding source. The annual apportionment of these funds to each State and American Territory is formula driven. The division is guaranteed to receive a SFR apportionment each year, however the amount fluctuates depending on a variety of factors (federal tax receipts on fishing tackle, boats, fuel and other commodities) resulting in unpredictability. The current national economic situation foretells that a decrease in SFR dollars coming to Alaska is all but certain. The division develops its annual budget requests based on projections versus actual amounts because of a timing deadline. As a result, there is often a difference between the amount that has been requested and the amount that is apportioned.

One of the primary challenges facing this RDU is the threat posed to recreational fishing opportunities caused by imminent loss of hatchery fish production due to aging facilities. With the passage and signing of SB147 in 2005 and

the \$70 million General Fund CIP appropriation approved by the Legislature and Governor Palin in 2008, the long-term problem has been addressed. The division is honoring the trust shown by the leaders of our state by designing and constructing the most efficient and productive facilities possible, utilizing proven technology. The division continues to explore and implement creative solutions for sustaining stocking levels until these new facilities are constructed and identify internal solutions for funding increased operation and maintenance costs in a manner that does not result in a budget increase.

Halibut fishing is an extremely important recreational pursuit in Alaska. Recent growth in this fishery, notably within the charter portion, has promoted discussion to develop a long-term management plan for this fishery. The North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC) has primary management jurisdiction over this fishery. The NPFMC adopted a limited entry program for halibut charter operators in International Pacific Halibut Commission (IPHC) Areas 2C and 3A (Southeast and Southcentral Alaska). Limited entry permits will probably be required as part of established regulations to manage the charter sector to its allocation. This is intended to be an interim plan that will eventually be replaced by a long-term management solution. Active participation within the U.S. Canada Pacific Salmon Treaty, NPFMC, and Alaska Board of Fisheries require intensive stock assessment data and rigorous technical analyses for formulating and improving fishery management plans.

Many Alaskans have voiced concern that the sport fish guide industry, in certain areas, has developed to undesirable levels, resulting in allocation conflicts and management concerns. In response to those concerns, a task force of sport fish industry representatives was convened to define a program that would promote the economic health and stability of the sport fish guide industry in Alaska. The task force recommended the creation of a Sport Fish Guide Services Board (similar to the Big Game Commercial Services Board) as an appropriate first step in regulating sport fishing guide activities in overcrowded areas of the State. This approach was chosen over creating a limited entry system similar to commercial fisheries which might have required a voter-approved amendment to the Alaska Constitution.

U.S. Census data suggests that a smaller percentage of Alaskans are purchasing a sport fishing license now than in previous years, although preliminary survey results indicate angler satisfaction is high. The recruitment and retention of recreational anglers is critical to Alaska's fishery management and the financial stability of the division. To that end, the division has partnered with the Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation in a 3-year effort to actively recruit approximately 40,000 lapsed resident Alaska anglers.

Responsible development of Alaska's resources is the foundation of Alaska's economy. The division works with various agencies to review major land and water development projects to assure that development occurs without significant impact to fish and wildlife. To this end, the division houses a statewide habitat conservation unit to coordinate fish habitat conservation efforts and supervise fish habitat research and restoration projects.

Federal initiatives are fast-tracking Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) land conveyances. As these lands are conveyed it is necessary to assure traditional access is protected and maintained as required under law. The Division of Sport Fish is working with federal land management agencies to assure that traditional hunting and fishing access is protected and maintained.

Federal oversight of subsistence fishing on federal public lands and waters has resulted in a loss or erosion of sport fishing opportunity across Alaska. Federal agencies have closed state-managed fisheries at various locations across the state. The department's subsistence liaison program, which includes personnel representing both the Divisions of Sport Fish and Commercial Fisheries 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. Statewide, regional, and area Sport Fish Division management and research staff were intricately involved in the federal subsistence regulatory process by providing data, reviewing and editing regulatory proposals and department positions, attending meetings, making public presentations, and providing written reports.

Significant Changes in Results to be Delivered in FY2010

The Sport Fish Division continues to improve its approach to projecting license and federal revenues in order to better prepare annual budget requests and project planning. The division will also continue to go through a comprehensive review of its budget to identify redundancies, inefficiencies, and costs that cannot be directly linked to the division's mission and strategic plan. This will eventually result in the identification of specific cost saving

measures and program-specific recommendations that will be incorporated into future budgets. This action combined with the implementation of a program focused on increasing license revenues will hopefully offset the anticipated costs associated with operating the two new hatchery facilities.

Effective July 1, 2008, fish habitat permitting authorities were transferred from Department of Natural Resources to the Department of Fish and Game via Executive Order 114. A Habitat Division was created to implement permitting authorities and related activities within the Department of Fish and Game. As a result, the Division's habitat permitting and review responsibilities formerly housed in Region 5 were transferred to the new Habitat Division.

The Sport Fisheries Research and Restoration Component will be merged into the Sport Fisheries Component in FY10 to allow greater flexibility in managing its various fiscal authorities. This will simplify and streamline its budget development and management processes as it relates to established performance targets. This change will not reduce accountability because the division has implemented project-based budgeting.

Major RDU Accomplishments in 2008

Region I: Southeast

The Southeast Alaska Sport Fishery was managed to stay within their allocations for Chinook salmon, lingcod, and rockfish during the 2007 fishing season (ending early FY'08). Lead salmon research staff worked on key technical analyses that were used during international negotiations with Canada and the southern US that eventually led to a new ten-year agreement of the US/Canada Pacific Salmon Treaty. The Information and Education (I&E) program, initiated in 2007, was further implemented in 2008 with a major emphasis on planning and coordinating a "*Becoming an Outdoors Woman*" workshop in Haines. The I&E program also assisted with scheduling the division's "Mobile Aquatic Classroom" to various communities, and was used to engage members of the public in various activities related to fish and fishing as well as contribute to '*Family Fishing Day*' events. The region's Enhancement program worked through the permitting and public process to add an additional Chinook salmon release site in Lutak Inlet near Haines using funds made available through SB147.

Region II: Southcentral

Board of Fisheries meetings for Kodiak, Upper Cook Inlet, and Lower Cook Inlet (including Resurrection Bay) resulted in a number of regulatory changes. Research continued jointly with the Division of Commercial Fisheries on projects studying sockeye salmon in the Susitna, Kenai, and Russian rivers to provide scientific information on fish production for potential future revisions to escapement goals and regulatory management plans. Ongoing projects are improving our knowledge of the genetic diversity of king salmon in Cook Inlet. A rockfish catch-and-release mortality study was initiated in Prince William Sound. The roadside king salmon fishery on Kodiak Island is becoming more popular with steps taken to increase fish production. Stock assessment projects conducted in Bristol Bay addressed salmon and resident fish species abundance and distribution. Efforts were made to eliminate northern pike from two lakes.

Region III: Interior

Both management and research staff were involved in regulatory and land use issues dealing with the Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim sport and personal use fisheries in 2008. Staff also participated in numerous meetings dealing with federal subsistence issues and staff continues to conduct a wide variety of research projects that are beneficial to those who participate in Alaskan fisheries. The king, sockeye, and coho salmon runs throughout the region were average and few in-season restrictions were required during 2008. The information and education program continues to be involved with rural communities to educate youth and adults in aquatic education and angling opportunities.

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 will use these estimates to determine trends in fishing pressure and harvest. Regulatory bodies use this information 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.

Using funds approved during the 2006 legislative session, RTS staff, along with the selected contractor, designed and conducted an economic impact survey in 2007, with results forthcoming in December 2008.

Statewide Habitat Assessment & Restoration

In 2008, the division permitted about 88% of applications for activities proposed in special areas within 30 days. In addition, existing management plans for the state's special areas have been reviewed and prioritized for development and updating. In 2008, the division completed a revision of an existing management plan for two areas: McNeil River State Game Refuge and McNeil River State Game Sanctuary. Additional progress was made on the development of one new plan for Izembeck State Game Refuge.

In 2007, a Research Coordinator position was created and hired to oversee and guide the division's habitat related research and restoration programs to ensure projects are carried out in a scientifically sound manner. A cost-share program in existence since 1995 was continued and provides funding for private landowner bank habitat restoration projects on the Kenai River. In 2008, 1,811 feet of stream bank was protected using a combination of cabled spruce trees and elevated, light penetrating, grate walks (1,217 feet and 594 feet respectively). An additional 1,021 feet of riverbank was rehabilitated using bio-engineered techniques. An update of the Fish Distribution Database and Anadromous Stream Catalog was initiated in association with the Department of Natural Resources while continuing fish passage and inventory efforts. In FY 08, culverts were replaced at five locations on the Kenai Peninsula and these replacements improved fish passage to 4.0 miles of fish habitat upstream of the road crossings documented in the AWC.

The division recently accelerated its access defense program in response to new federal initiatives to expedite Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) land conveyances. In 2008, 1,728 ANCSA conveyances, native allotment conveyances, municipal conveyances, subdivision plats, and section line easements were received for review by ADF&G. A review was conducted to ensure fish and wildlife resources, their uses, and public access to fish and wildlife resources is maintained. Of the documents received, 1,717 (99%) were reviewed within time frames specified within each review process.

Other Statewide Accomplishments:

The division worked cooperatively with the Sport Fish Guide Services Task Force to develop draft language authorizing the establishment of a Sport Fish Guide Services Board that would establish guide use areas and to pursue limitations on use within areas where there is a demonstrated need to do so. This program would categorize and professionally license the industry as guides, outfitters or transporters and would provide an opportunity to gather additional information on levels of participation and numbers of fish being harvested within each of these groups. Comments on the draft language are being solicited at public meetings across Alaska and through the division's website.

This was the fourth year in which sport fish guides and businesses providing guiding services for compensation must be licensed. Licensing requirements have increased the level of professionalism by establishing minimum standards to both fresh and saltwater sport fish guides. Additional strategies employing area management and creel staff for assuring the accuracy of logbooks were initiated and a priority instituted with enforcement personnel. Further verification programs are being conducted using survey methods of licensed anglers. The saltwater logbook data continued to be crucial in responding to data requests from the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council. We anticipate continued cooperation with fish and wildlife enforcement in this endeavor.

The department has maintained its aggressive approach in challenging the unnecessary expansion of the federal subsistence program in Alaska. ADF&G continues to encourage the Federal Subsistence Board (FSB) to: 1) develop written policies and procedures; 2) follow federal regulations and court direction; and 3) make decisions based upon applicable scientific data.

The division completed five boating access Capital Improvement Projects (CIPs) in 2008. In Region I Heritage Harbor Boat Launch (Wrangell), Situk River Lower Landing Land Acquisition (Yakutat), Salmon River Boat Launch Rehabilitation (Gustavus). Region II: Susitna Landing Boat launch Riparian Improvements (Kashwitna/Willow) and Anton Larsen Bay Boat launch (Kodiak).

The division is currently in the process of revising its Strategic Plan that was initiated in 2001. The Strategic Plan revision is a priority for the division and its intended purpose during the next five years is to serve as a guiding document to:

- Identify and address priority issues;
- Refine and develop programs;
- Serve as an annual assessment tool for monitoring the status of our programs;
- Provide for better fiscal planning and accountability; and
- Ensure fiscal responsibility.

The goal is to have a final Strategic Plan ready to print by July of 2009.

The division's Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) Program is involved in management and planning processes with the four federal land management agencies represented in Alaska: the National Park Service, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, the US Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management. The ANILCA Program's emphasis in each action is to protect the department's management authority for fish and wildlife and the public's ability to access and use fish and wildlife on federally administered public lands. The program worked on the following federally related issues and programs:

- National Park Service (NPS): Dry Bay (Glacier Bay National Preserve) Off-Highway Vehicle Access Plan; Cantwell (Denali National Park and Preserve) Off Road Vehicle Access Environmental Assessment; Alaska Parks regulation revisions, multiple environmental assessment reviews.
- US Fish and Wildlife Service: Participate as a planning team member in Comprehensive Conservation Plan Revisions for the Togiak, Kenai, Kanuti, Tetin, Koyukuk-Nowitna, Selawik and Izembek Refuges.
- US Forest Service: Unuk River Communication Dish, Wilderness Access Issues/Helicopter Use (Etolin Elk), assisted in development of guidelines for implementing Access Travel Management Plans and the Sitka ATM appeal, assisted in the negotiations for the Record of Decision for TLMP, coordinated department review on Guide Regulations and new Flat Fee Policy.
- Bureau of Land Management: Review of 5 Resource Management Plans (East Alaska, Kobuk-Seward Peninsula, Bay Area, and White Mountains); Trapping cabin management, participated in the Delta Wild and Scenic River Plan Revision.
- Provided assistance to the Western Governors Association in developing comments on wildlife corridors in relation to oil and gas development.
- Obtained recognition of ANILCA in BLM's National Land Conservation System.
- Worked with the national offices of the federal land management agencies in implementing policies and guidelines for fish and wildlife management in designated wilderness areas.

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**Sport Fisheries
RDU Financial Summary by Component**

All dollars shown in thousands

| | FY2008 Actuals | | | | FY2009 Management Plan | | | | FY2010 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 | 2,024.9 | 17,936.3 | 16,437.4 | 36,398.6 | 3,196.9 | 20,810.5 | 19,000.1 | 43,007.5 | 3,742.4 | 22,843.0 | 21,066.6 | 47,652.0 |
| SF Research and Restoration | 467.7 | 1,327.7 | 1,873.3 | 3,668.7 | 608.0 | 2,314.6 | 3,253.9 | 6,176.5 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 | 0.0 |
| Totals | 2,492.6 | 19,264.0 | 18,310.7 | 40,067.3 | 3,804.9 | 23,125.1 | 22,254.0 | 49,184.0 | 3,742.4 | 22,843.0 | 21,066.6 | 47,652.0 |

Sport Fisheries
Summary of RDU Budget Changes by Component
From FY2009 Management Plan to FY2010 Governor

All dollars shown in thousands

| | <u>General Funds</u> | <u>Federal Funds</u> | <u>Other Funds</u> | <u>Total Funds</u> |
|--|----------------------|----------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| FY2009 Management Plan | 3,804.9 | 23,125.1 | 22,254.0 | 49,184.0 |
| Adjustments which will continue current level of service: | | | | |
| -Sport Fisheries | 545.5 | 2,309.5 | 2,910.5 | 5,765.5 |
| -SF Research and Restoration | -608.0 | -2,314.6 | -3,253.9 | -6,176.5 |
| Proposed budget decreases: | | | | |
| -Sport Fisheries | 0.0 | -277.0 | -844.0 | -1,121.0 |
| FY2010 Governor | 3,742.4 | 22,843.0 | 21,066.6 | 47,652.0 |