Marine Fisheries Patrol Improvements

FY2012 Request: **$2,000,000**
Reference No: **35825**

AP/AL: Appropriation
Project Type: Life / Health / Safety
Category: Public Protection
Location: Statewide
Contact: Dan Spencer, Director, Administrative Services
House District: Statewide (HD 1-40)
Contact Phone: (907)465-5488
Estimated Project Dates: 07/01/2011 - 06/30/2012

Brief Summary and Statement of Need:
This project is a result of lengthy negotiations with the National Marine Fisheries Service. Federally regulated marine fisheries occur on a year-round basis in the coastal and offshore waters of the state of Alaska. Both the federal and state governments share an interest in ensuring these fisheries are protected. This request is for the federal fiscal year 2010 joint enforcement agreement that will help the department achieve its mission to ensure public safety and enforce fish and wildlife laws and protecting wildlife resources.

Funding:	FY2012	FY2013	FY2014	FY2015	FY2016	FY2017	Total
Fed Rcpts	$2,000,000	$2,000,000	$2,000,000	$2,000,000	$2,000,000	$2,000,000	$12,000,000
Total:	$2,000,000	$2,000,000	$2,000,000	$2,000,000	$2,000,000	$2,000,000	$12,000,000

☐ State Match Required ☐ One-Time Project ☐ Phased - new ☐ Phased - underway ☑ On-Going
0% = Minimum State Match % Required ☐ Amendment ☐ Mental Health Bill

Operating & Maintenance Costs:

	Amount	Staff
Project Development:	0	0
Ongoing Operating:	0	0
One-Time Startup:	0	
Totals:	0	0

Additional Information / Prior Funding History:
Ch 43, SLA 2010, P18, L 30 $2,500.0 Federal
Ch 15, SLA 2009, P 18, L 30 $2,500.0 Federal
Ch 29, SLA 2008, P 74/L 75 & P 75/L3 $2,000.0 Federal
Ch 30, SLA 2007, P 101, L 26-27 $1,750.0 Federal
Ch 82, SLA 2006, P 81, L 28-30 $1,200.0 Federal
Ch 3, FSSLA 2005 P 64, L 6-7 $2,500.0 Federal
Ch 159, SLA 2004, P 82, L 28-31/ P 83 L 1 $1250.0 Federal
Ch 82, SLA 2003, P 33, L 20-21 $1,080.3 Federal
Ch 1, SSSLA 2002, P 45, L 17-18 $1001.4 Federal

Project Description/Justification:
The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), National Marine Fisheries Services (NMFS), has entered into an agreement with the State of Alaska, Department of Public Safety, Division of Alaska Wildlife Troopers, to enforce federal laws and regulations under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act; the Endangered Species Act of 1973; the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981; and the Northern Pacific Halibut Act of 1982.

Federally regulated marine fisheries occur on a year-round basis in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). This agreement (Joint Enforcement Agreement or JEA) provides a framework plan for the enforcement of federal and state fisheries regulations in the EZZ offshore of the state of Alaska.

Recognizing enforcement needs in the North Pacific Ocean and Bering Sea, the Department of Public Safety cooperates with the NMFS in enhanced patrols available through the Coastal Stewardship Act. The NMFS recognizes that Alaska maintains the assets and personnel for efficient patrols and rather than create a redundant infrastructure, they prefer to augment the state's programs.

Fish and wildlife law enforcement in Alaska's coastal and offshore environments is of broad common interest to both the state and federal governments. However, these large geographic expanses suffer an absence of federal logistical support for patrolling, monitoring, and investigating fish and wildlife related activities and impacts.

Even though Alaska's enforcement logistical capabilities are well beyond those available to the NMFS and other federal agencies, the Division of Alaska Wildlife Troopers is unable to broaden or enhance its field presence without additional funding. In many cases, enhancing state funding will provide additional air and sea patrols during which state and federal concerns can be met concurrently. Such enhancement of existing state assets and infrastructure is much more cost effective than developing similar assets in the federal government.

This cooperative project is consistent with long-term state enforcement. For decades, the State of Alaska has been delegated federal enforcement authority in federal waters. These fisheries are of common concern to both state and federal managers. This project demonstrates that the federal government is concerned about enforcement presence and has agreed to share in the high costs of marine offshore enforcement in support of the Division of Alaska Wildlife Troopers' expanded resource patrols.

The need for additional dockside monitoring and enforcement presence has increased with the change in federal fisheries from open competitive to quota share systems. As these quota share systems are being developed, newly designed fisheries result that have significantly changed the scope of enforcement. The system has created fisheries that are open nearly all year and has resulted in a significant need for increased dockside monitoring of landings. NMFS has requested assistance and has agreed to enhance state funding to provide increased department shore-side presence to monitor landings.

The federal funding is intended to augment the work currently performed by the Division of Alaska Wildlife Troopers using existing personnel. The agreement funds a full-time sergeant (JEA coordinator) and administrative clerk in Kodiak, and 14 public safety technician positions. Public safety technicians are located in the following communities: Dutch Harbor (2), Kodiak (3), Klawock (1), Cordova (1), Juneau (1), Hoonah (1), Ketchikan (1), Anchor Point (1), Seward (1), Petersburg (1), and Sitka (1). These positions are primarily assigned to dockside monitoring and inspections for IFQ/IPQ fishery compliance. Beginning with federal fiscal year 2011, the JEA agreement between NOAA and AWT will be on a one-year cycle rather than a two-year cycle as previously awarded.

The division will provide large vessel support and trooper investigators to assist in federal fisheries enforcement. The JEA will also provide funds to be used for equipment to support fisheries enforcement.

This project will not result in any additional operating costs requiring state general fund appropriations. These federal funds cannot be used to reduce current state enforcement efforts.