

**Kenai River King Salmon Sonar Assessment Program****FY2013 Request: \$1,813,000****Reference No: 54418****AP/AL:** Appropriation**Project Type:** Equipment / Commodities**Category:** Natural Resources**Location:** Kenai Areawide**House District:** Kenai Areawide (HD 33-35)**Impact House District:** Kenai Areawide (HD 33-35)**Contact:** Charles O. Swanton**Estimated Project Dates:** 07/01/2012 - 06/30/2017**Contact Phone:** (907)465-6184**Brief Summary and Statement of Need:**

This capital project will expedite the transition and implementation to a new sonar program to more accurately assess abundance of Kenai River king salmon. Results will minimize uncertainty and reduce public and user group concerns about sustainability and in-season management of a recreationally and economically important resource.

<b>Funding:</b>	<u>FY2013</u>	<u>FY2014</u>	<u>FY2015</u>	<u>FY2016</u>	<u>FY2017</u>	<u>FY2018</u>	<u>Total</u>
Gen Fund	\$1,813,000						\$1,813,000
<b>Total:</b>	\$1,813,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,813,000

<input type="checkbox"/> State Match Required	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> One-Time Project	<input type="checkbox"/> Phased - new	<input type="checkbox"/> Phased - underway	<input type="checkbox"/> On-Going
0% = Minimum State Match % Required		<input type="checkbox"/> Amendment	<input type="checkbox"/> Mental Health Bill	

**Operating & Maintenance Costs:**

	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Staff</u>
Project Development:	0	0
Ongoing Operating:	0	0
One-Time Startup:	0	
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

**Additional Information / Prior Funding History:**

This is the first year for the project.

**Project Description/Justification:**

Funding will be used for purchasing and operating new state-of-the-art sonar equipment, evaluating new sonar sites (above tidal influence), and developing in-season data processing protocols to efficiently produce king salmon abundance estimates for fishery managers. Mark-Recapture (tagging data) abundance estimates and employing weir counts from tributary streams will be used to measure consistency of the king salmon sonar estimates which will improve the department's overall assessment of king salmon escapement and directly benefit both recreational and commercial user groups.

This project is needed to expedite the collection of information leading to more rapid transition of improved inseason assessment of Kenai River king salmon, providing for better informed management action which greatly impacts local and regional economies. This project should not be delayed due to increasing public concerns regarding regulatory and management actions affecting Kenai River king salmon fisheries, and both short and long-term economic impacts, as well as demands that Fish and Game resolve these concerns quickly, not prolong uncertainty in assessing Kenai River king salmon abundance, and transition to improved methods to measure that abundance.

Results from this project will minimize uncertainty and reduce public and user group concerns about sustainability and inseason management of this recreationally and economically important resource.

This project ties directly to the department's mission through its impact on the division's ability to more effectively manage the Kenai River fishery as identified in the department's core service "Ensure sustainability and harvestable surplus of fish and wildlife resources" as well as the division's core function of "Fisheries Management". The end results of this project ties in with the department's strategy to "sustain fisheries on stocks of fish... based upon the control and regulation of harvest through responsive management systems".