

Marine Fisheries Patrol Improvements

FY2013 Request: \$1,500,000

Reference No: 35825

AP/AL: Appropriation

Project Type: Life / Health / Safety

Category: Public Protection

Location: Statewide

House District: Statewide (HD 1-40)

Impact House District: Statewide (HD 1-40)

Contact: Danial Spencer

Estimated Project Dates: 07/01/2012 - 06/30/2017

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Brief Summary and Statement of Need:

This project is a part of a joint enforcement agreement with the National Marine Fisheries Service. Federally regulated marine fisheries occur on a year-round basis in the coastal and offshore waters 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 2012 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:	FY2013	FY2014	FY2015	FY2016	FY2017	FY2018	Total
Fed Rcpts	\$1,500,000						\$1,500,000
Total:	\$1,500,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,500,000

<input type="checkbox"/> State Match Required	<input type="checkbox"/> One-Time Project	<input type="checkbox"/> Phased - new	<input type="checkbox"/> Phased - underway	<input checked="" 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	0
Totals:	0	0

Additional Information / Prior Funding History:

- Ch 5, FSSSLA 2011, P96, L8 \$2,000,000
- Ch 43, SLA 2010, P18, L 30 \$2,500,000
- Ch 15, SLA 2009, P 18, L 30 \$2,500,000
- Ch 29, SLA 2008, P 74/L 75 & P 75/L3 \$2,000,000
- Ch 30, SLA 2007, P 101, L 26-27 \$1,750,000
- Ch 82, SLA 2006, P 81, L 28-30 \$1,200,000
- Ch 3, FSSSLA 2005 P 64, L 6-7 \$2,500,000
- Ch 159, SLA 2004, P 82, L 28-31/ P 83 L 1 \$1250,000
- Ch 82, SLA 2003, P 33, L 20-21 \$1,080,300
- Ch 1, SSSLA 2002, P 45, L 17-18 \$1,001,400

Project Description/Justification:

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), Office of Law Enforcement (OLE), 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 EEZ offshore of the state of Alaska.

Recognizing enforcement needs in the North Pacific Ocean and Bering Sea, the Department of Public Safety cooperates with OLE in enhanced patrols available through the Coastal Stewardship Act. The OLE 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 OLE 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. The National Marine Fisheries Services (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 5 (currently filled) public safety technician positions. Public safety technicians are located in the following communities: Dutch Harbor (2), Kodiak (1), Juneau (1), and Sitka (1). These positions are primarily assigned to dockside monitoring and inspections for IFQ/IPQ fishery compliance. 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.