

**State of Alaska  
FY2015 Governor's Operating Budget**

**Department of Fish and Game  
Sport Fisheries  
Results Delivery Unit Budget Summary**

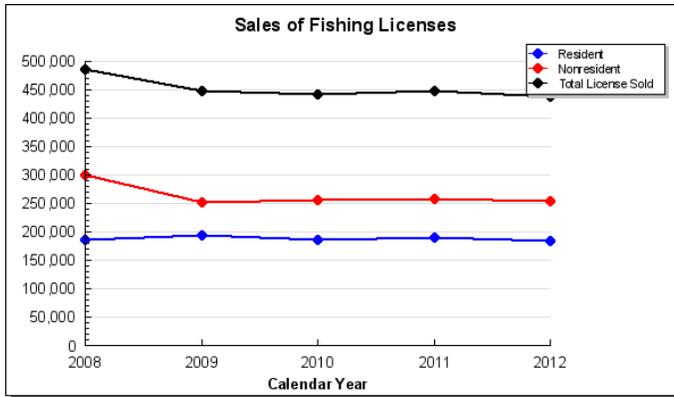
Sport Fisheries Results Delivery Unit

Contribution to Department's Mission

The mission of the Division of Sport Fish is to protect and improve the state's recreational fisheries resources.

Results

(Additional performance information is available on the web at <https://omb.alaska.gov/results>.)



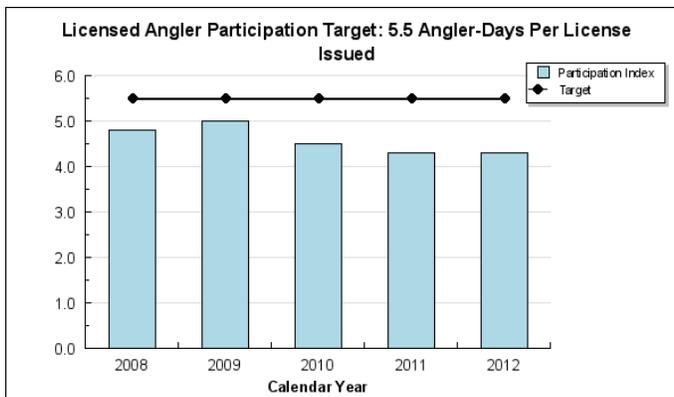
Core Services

- Manage wild fish stocks using scientifically and statistically sound research to ensure sustained use by Alaska's recreational fisheries.
- Diversify and enhance recreational fishing opportunities via supplemental stocking of hatchery-reared fish.

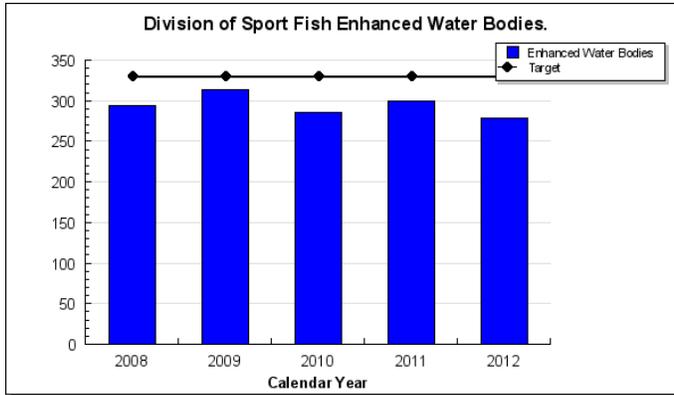
Measures by Core Service

(Additional performance information is available on the web at <https://omb.alaska.gov/results>.)

1. Manage wild fish stocks using scientifically and statistically sound research to ensure sustained use by Alaska's recreational fisheries.



## 2. Diversify and enhance recreational fishing opportunities via supplemental stocking of hatchery-reared fish.



## Major RDU Accomplishments in 2013

### Fisheries Management:

- Improved salmon forecasts assisted with inseason management decisions for select stocks and appropriate actions were taken in a timely manner to ensure escapement goals were met.
- Area managers conducted creel and escapement index surveys to ascertain run strength; tracked subsistence, commercial, and recreational harvests; and produced inseason abundance estimates to ensure sustainable fish populations and sport allocations were achieved in 2013.
- Invasive marine invertebrate distribution was largely unchanged between initial and secondary surveys.
- Changed the format of the 2013 Southeast Alaska Sport Fishing Regulations Summary to decrease confusion for anglers wanting to comply with sport fishing regulations.
- Implemented the “non-pelagic rockfish” Release at Depth Communication Plan required for public presentations; made numerous personal contacts at area offices; and updated the printed and web page content that addressed this issue.
- Management staff participated in several Board of Fisheries meetings that included preparing and presenting department data on proposals dealing with commercial, sport, personal use, and subsistence regulations.
- Lower than average Chinook salmon runs resulted in sport fisheries restrictions and closures in a number of streams throughout Cook Inlet, Kodiak and Western Alaska. Appropriate management actions were taken, some pre-season, despite contentious responses from the public. Conversely, some sockeye and Coho salmon sport fisheries were liberalized (e.g., bag limits were increased).
- Intensive capture and removal of invasive northern pike continued throughout Alexander Creek. The public provided input on plans to eradicate invasive pike from the Soldotna Creek watershed.
- Continued partnership with federal, tribal, state and local organizations to educate the public about invasive species and increased buy-in of stakeholders resulted in better communication and coordination statewide to address invasive species threats.
- Area managers tracked subsistence harvests, commercial harvests, recreational harvests, and inseason abundance estimates to ensure sustainable fish populations and sport allocations were achieved in 2013.
- Completion and release by information and education staff of “How to Dipnet” series of videos on the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) website.

### Fisheries Research:

- Implement revised operational planning policy for all division’s assessment projects.
- Initiated a new Coho coded-wire-tagging project on Cowee Creek north of Juneau; an important sport fishery on the Juneau roadside with very little information about stock status.
- Production-level use of new sonar technology (ARIS) implemented for inseason assessment of Kenai River Chinook salmon abundance. A companion project used genetics to estimate abundance of Kenai River Chinook salmon independent of sonar, providing information on the accuracy and consistency of the ARIS to measure total Chinook salmon abundance.
- Research biologists captured and marked Susitna River Chinook and coho salmon to estimate inriver abundance and assess spawning distribution.

- Coordinated with the Division of Commercial Fisheries to assess inriver Chinook salmon abundance in the Nushagak, Lewis and Theodore rivers.
- Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim 2013 salmon research included escapement monitoring on the Chena and Gulkana rivers and a juvenile salmon study on the Unalakleet River.
- Technical peer reviews and publication of 65 reports authored by division staff in the ADF&G Sport/Commercial Fisheries reporting series in calendar year 2012.

**Fisheries Enhancement:**

- Return to historic stocking levels at several locations in Southcentral and Interior Alaska.
- Renewal of the catchable Chinook salmon and Arctic grayling programs.
- Significant improvement in size and condition of catchable Chinook salmon resulted in greater winter angling opportunity throughout the Upper Kenai, Anchorage, and Matanuska-Susitna areas.
- Maintained full hatchery production despite extended power outages and significant flooding events in Southcentral Alaska.

**Angler Access:**

- The Recreational Boating and Angler Access program managed 21 active, on-going projects that will benefit access.
- The Boating Access Program completed three boating and one angler access capital projects: Quartz Lake State Recreation Area Boat Launch Renovation (Fairbanks – RIII), Big Delta State Historic Park Launch Feasibility Study and Development (Fairbanks – RIII), Bar Harbor Launch Renovation (Ketchikan – RI), and Juneau Road System Angler Access (Juneau – RI).

**Information and Education Services:**

- Area office and regional Information Center staff continued delivery of high quality customer service by providing information to the angling public on recreational fishing in Alaska including fishing tips, information on regulations and inseason management actions, results of research projects, and public access.
- Education programs reached thousands of participants and included the following: Salmon in the Classroom, Becoming an Outdoors Woman (BOW), Beyond BOW, Alaska Conservation Camp (ACC), and the Mobile Aquatic Classroom.
- Developed and instructed curricula for fisheries technician classes at a Juneau-area high school.

**Fish Habitat:**

- Coordinated planning and work conducted by various regional habitat partnerships around the state that were created under the National Fish Habitat Action Plan (NFHAP).
- Reservation of water applications for fish habitat were completed and submitted for adjudication on 22 waterbodies in 2013.
- Bank restoration projects were conducted, resulting in 43,183 feet of riverbank and riparian habitat rehabilitated in 2013.
- The anadromous waters catalog and atlas were updated with 263 miles of new waterbodies in 2013.
- Four restoration projects improved fish passage to 16.7 miles of priority-catalogued fish habitat in 2013.

**Workforce Support:**

- Administrative staff continued to have high level of proficiency dealing with personnel; accounting; and operational procedures and policy issues.
- Initiated development of high school intern program in the Juneau area during summer months to dovetail with new curriculum being developed in local high school.

**Key RDU Challenges****Overview:**

- Revenue is projected to decline by \$2.9M from loss of federal excise tax receipts and federal sequestration for the Sport Fish Restoration Program-Dingell/Johnson (DJ) funds.
- Revenue decline of \$1.2M in the sale of sport fishing licenses and king salmon stamps from FY2012 to FY2013.
- Salary increases are contractually required, despite unrealizable revenue sources in DJ and Fish and Game funds.

- Despite declining revenues, maintain the goal of the Division of Sport Fish to sustain recreational fishing opportunities while optimizing social and economic benefits to Alaska.

**Fisheries Management:**

- Continued low abundance of adult Chinook salmon throughout Southcentral, Southwestern, and Interior Alaska required management to apply restrictions and closures to provide for spawning escapement.
- Rockfish and lingcod sport fisheries affected by North Pacific Fisheries Management Council actions pertaining to federally managed halibut fisheries.
- Reduced budgets have left two Area Management Biologist (AMB) positions vacant (Prince of Wales Island; Lower Cook Inlet) and one Assistant AMB position vacant (Anchorage/North Gulf Coast).
- Limited staff and fiscal resources have resulted in less department presence in management areas of the Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim region, and limited ability to develop progressive control measures for marine invasive species.

**Fisheries Research:**

- Revise current and create new assessment projects to better understand statewide productivity and abundance trends of Chinook salmon.
- More reliance on grant funds comes with additional accounting and reporting requirements, which increases the workload on research and administrative staff.
- Continue the transitioning to state-of-the-art sonar technology and performing a genetics-based mark-recapture study, to improve assessment of Chinook in the Kenai River.
- Declining budgets have reduced or eliminated new population assessment projects for Coho salmon, groundfish, and freshwater-resident species and have delayed publication of reports describing completed research.
- Implement revised operational planning policy for all division's assessment projects.
- Continue improvements to data collection, analysis, and reporting of charter logbook information.
- Collect and update economic information relevant to recreational fisheries in Alaska.

**Fisheries Enhancement:**

- Collect adequate Chinook and Coho salmon broodstock to sustain stocking programs and increase stocking levels in Cook Inlet.
- Adjust the Stocked Fisheries Program to maximize benefits to anglers within constraints of declining budgets.
- Regain angler participation that was lost during hatchery production decline.

**Angler Access:**

- Timely completion of boating and angler access projects may be hindered due to: decreased DJ funds, increase in construction and maintenance costs, and difficulties in obtaining the non-federal match requirement from cooperating agencies.

**Information and Education Services:**

- Inform the public about Alaska's recreational fishing opportunities, angler access, regulations, and fisheries management in a timely manner.
- Limited capacity to develop modern and innovative methods for delivery of timely information to the public.
- Develop public outreach projects at the Fisheries Centers located at the two new hatcheries through partnerships and submission of grant proposals.

**Fish Habitat:**

- Continue coordination with other state agencies, local governments and stakeholders to help address habitat concerns relative to personal-use fisheries in Cook Inlet.
- Address critical information needs for culvert design for improvement of fish passage.
- Continue to provide biological and hydrologic advice to support reviews of hydroelectric projects through the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission process.

**Workforce Support:**

- Achieve division objectives for core services with staff shortages and revenue declines.
- Knowledge transfer with pending retirements.

## Significant Changes in Results to be Delivered in FY2015

### Overview:

- The “Division of Sport Fish Strategic Plan” (<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/static/fishing/PDFs/sport/StrategicPlan2010Final.pdf>) guides division efforts to identify priority issues; annually develop, assess, and monitor programs to address those issues; and improve fiscal planning and accountability to ensure fiscal responsibility. The division will need to prioritize projects based on the strategic plan and eliminate projects that are of lower priority or less essential to achieving mission and core services.
- Increase research efforts to improve assessment of Chinook salmon returns to the Kenai, Susitna, Nushagak, and Karluk rivers.
- Improve Coho salmon assessment on the Susitna River and other Matanuska-Susitna Borough streams.

### Fisheries Management:

- Evaluate management areas and develop strategies and plans to ensure availability of fisheries resources for future generations.
- Evaluate and recommend enhancement needs (including habitat enhancement and fish stocking).

### Fisheries Research:

- Implement electronic data capture in the marine harvest studies program.
- Continue focused research efforts to improve assessment of Chinook salmon in the Kenai River.
- Assess how research projects address management needs.

### Fisheries Enhancement:

- Establish active support to furnish and operate Fisheries Centers at the Ruth Burnett and William Jack Hernandez sport fish hatcheries.
- Evaluate enhancement program funding to ensure priority projects are at sufficient levels and meet angler needs.

### Angler Access:

- Work with local government agencies to assess current needs and develop plans for future projects.

### Information and Education:

- Identify areas that anglers would benefit from a video on how to effectively and legally participate in specific fisheries.

### Workforce Support:

- Develop strategy to reprogram existing staff to fill in gaps resulting from retirements and resignations.

### Contact Information

**Contact:** Charles O. Swanton, Director  
**Phone:** (907) 465-6184  
**Fax:** (907) 465-2772  
**E-mail:** [charles.swanton@alaska.gov](mailto:charles.swanton@alaska.gov)

**Sport Fisheries  
RDU Financial Summary by Component**

*All dollars shown in thousands*

	FY2013 Actuals				FY2014 Management Plan				FY2015 Governor			
	UGF+DGF Funds	Other Funds	Federal Funds	Total Funds	UGF+DGF Funds	Other Funds	Federal Funds	Total Funds	UGF+DGF Funds	Other Funds	Federal Funds	Total Funds
<b>Formula Expenditures</b> None.												
<b>Non-Formula Expenditures</b>												
Sport Fisheries	6,645.4	16,558.4	14,401.8	37,605.6	7,685.7	19,563.8	17,905.8	45,155.3	6,962.5	19,012.6	17,127.8	43,102.9
Sport Fish Hatcheries	1,028.2	149.9	3,656.4	4,834.5	330.3	255.9	5,385.4	5,971.6	330.9	256.0	5,387.2	5,974.1
<b>Totals</b>	<b>7,673.6</b>	<b>16,708.3</b>	<b>18,058.2</b>	<b>42,440.1</b>	<b>8,016.0</b>	<b>19,819.7</b>	<b>23,291.2</b>	<b>51,126.9</b>	<b>7,293.4</b>	<b>19,268.6</b>	<b>22,515.0</b>	<b>49,077.0</b>

**Sport Fisheries**  
**Summary of RDU Budget Changes by Component**  
**From FY2014 Management Plan to FY2015 Governor**

*All dollars shown in thousands*

	<u>Unrestricted Gen (UGF)</u>	<u>Designated Gen (DGF)</u>	<u>Other Funds</u>	<u>Federal Funds</u>	<u>Total Funds</u>
<b>FY2014 Management Plan</b>	<b>8,016.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>19,819.7</b>	<b>23,291.2</b>	<b>51,126.9</b>
<b>Adjustments which will continue current level of service:</b>					
-Sport Fisheries	-1,147.6	0.0	-251.2	-178.0	-1,576.8
-Sport Fish Hatcheries	0.6	0.0	0.1	1.8	2.5
<b>Proposed budget decreases:</b>					
-Sport Fisheries	-114.1	0.0	-300.0	-600.0	-1,014.1
<b>Proposed budget increases:</b>					
-Sport Fisheries	538.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	538.5
<b>FY2015 Governor</b>	<b>7,293.4</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>19,268.6</b>	<b>22,515.0</b>	<b>49,077.0</b>