

State of Alaska
FY2018 Governor's Operating Budget

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

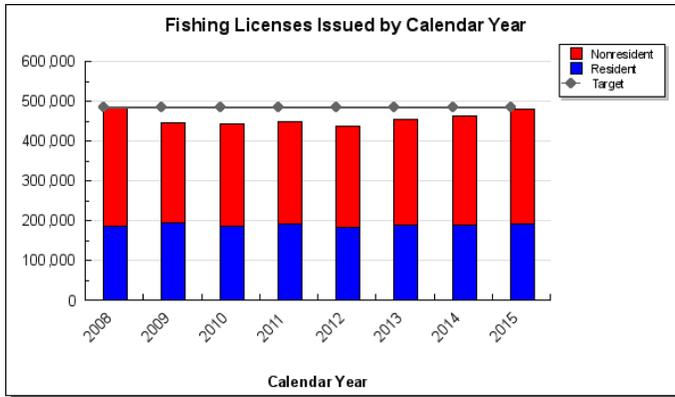
Sport Fisheries Results Delivery Unit

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>.)



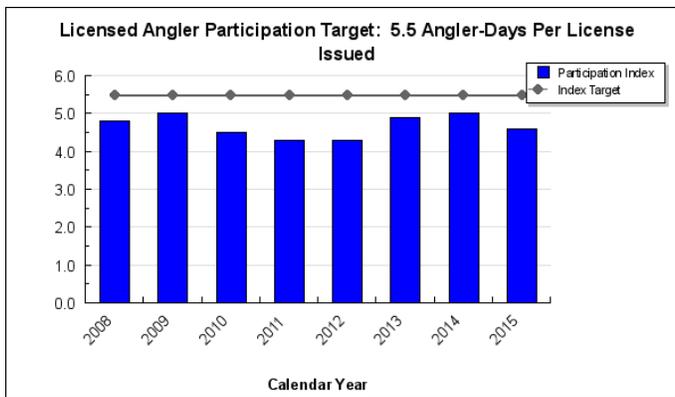
Core Services

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

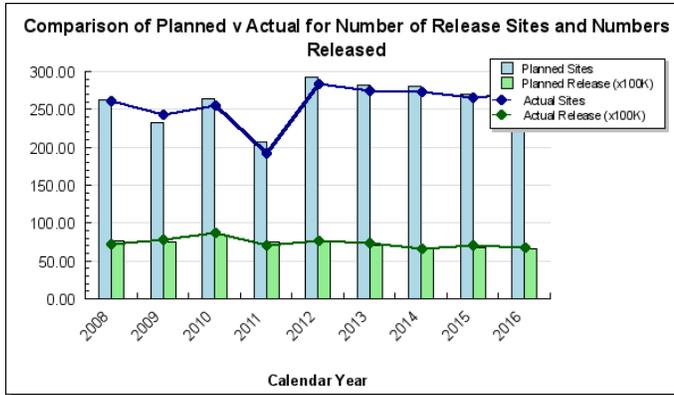
Measures by Core Service

(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 sport fisheries.



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



Major RDU Accomplishments in 2016

Sustaining Fishing Opportunities

Area fishery managers actively monitor salmon runs and resident fish stocks to restrict fisheries when necessary and liberalize fisheries where possible, while sustaining yield. Considering recent poor production of Chinook salmon runs statewide, and recent Federal restrictions on guided halibut fishing, liberalizing fisheries where possible can provide valuable alternative fishing opportunities to anglers and partially offset lost opportunities elsewhere. In 2016, fishery managers liberalized fishing opportunity for sockeye salmon fisheries (e.g. Redoubt Bay near Sitka, Resurrection Bay, Kenai River, and several Kodiak systems) and opportunity for coho salmon in Fish, Cottonwood and Wasilla Creeks in the Mat-Su valley. Additionally, Chinook salmon runs to the Kenai, Little Susitna and Deshka Rivers were strong enough to partially or fully reverse pre-season restrictions to those fisheries in season, and some enhanced king salmon fisheries were liberalized as well.

Communication and Public Service

In conjunction with the department's larger License Modernization project implemented live in 2015, the division made substantial advances in online license sales and personal use permitting and harvest reporting in 2016. The ADFG Online Store underwent significant improvements in 2016 that enabled anglers to readily purchase and print fishing licenses and king salmon stamps from home. Similarly, e-vendor systems were installed in ADFG information centers and at participating vendor sites to increase online sales. To date, online sales of licenses, tags, and stamps in calendar year 2016 comprise 35 percent of all items sold and 42 percent of all revenue. These figures are notably higher compared to 2015, when online sales represented 16 percent of all items and 34 percent of all revenue.

Online permits were initially made available to participants in the Cook Inlet and Chitina personal use salmon fisheries during the 2015 season. Prince William Sound shrimp permits, in addition to the permits above, were made available prior to the 2016 fishing season. In addition to obtaining permits online and printing from home, permit holders could report harvests online for these fisheries regardless of how they obtained their permits (online or in person). For the three fisheries combined, 44,901 permits were issued, of which 33 percent (14,717) were issued online. Preliminary harvest reports indicate approximately 50 percent of permit holders are reporting online.

The division completed implementation of GovDelivery in 2016 as a primary means for improving communication with anglers, guides and the interested public. Based on subscription topics thru GovDelivery, the public self-selects in order to receive periodic informational e-mail updates. Topics currently include: weekly fishing reports; news releases; emergency orders; and local area fishing opportunities. The division also initiated direct e-mail correspondence with defined audiences as an efficient and cost-effective approach to broaden message dissemination. For example, the division historically printed and mailed reminder notices to Cook Inlet and Chitina personal use permit holders to report harvest at a unit cost of approximately \$3. This year, the division utilized GovDelivery to e-mail reminder notices to the Cook Inlet personal use permit holders. The e-mail sent resulted in approximately 2,500 permit holders reporting online, which represents an approximate \$7,500 savings and an overall positive return on investment.

Hatchery Visitor Centers

Exhibits, interactive displays and informational signage were installed at both the Ship Creek Fisheries Center (SCFC) at the William Jack Hernandez Sport Fish Hatchery in Anchorage, and the Tanana Valley Fisheries Center (TVFC) at the Ruth Burnett Sport Fish Hatchery in Fairbanks. Each location was staffed for public tours during times of high visitor use (May-August) for the first time in 2016. Visitation and hatchery tours proved to be popular with the public and as a result, increased visitation and tours were accommodated. Over 3,160 visitors (average 55 per day) were hosted at the WJH hatchery in Anchorage, and over 950 visitors (average 17 per day) at the Ruth Burnett hatchery in Fairbanks.

Hatchery Production

Sport Fish Division's enhancement program supports some of Alaska's most popular and reliable fisheries in the state by increasing opportunities for anglers while reducing fishing pressure on wild stocks. The "Statewide Stocking Plan for Sport Fisheries, 2016" outlined objectives that include the number and locations of the division's enhancement efforts for the next five years, and received considerable public input. In 2016, the division's hatcheries produced and released 6.55 million Chinook and coho salmon, rainbow trout and Arctic char at 293 different locations.

Key RDU Challenges

Sustaining Fishing Opportunities

Statewide Chinook salmon production has been low since 2007, and runs continued at relatively low levels in 2016. In many cases, Chinook salmon escapement goals were achieved; however, a number were not, including goals for several Chinook salmon stocks designated by the Board of Fisheries as "stocks of concern" in Cook Inlet, and all but one goal in Southeast Alaska. Numerous restrictions resulted in lost harvest and fishing opportunities; some systems were closed to fishing altogether. Chinook salmon runs in 2017 are likely to remain low and will challenge managers tasked with providing anglers fishing opportunity while attaining escapement goals. Pre- and inseason restrictions to sport fishing opportunity will again likely be needed to ensure that Chinook stocks are conserved.

Communications and Public Service

Approximately 500,000 anglers participate annually in Alaska's sport fisheries. Many are new to the activity in any given year, and many participate in some but not all years. Interests vary among anglers; some fish to put food on the table; others practice catch-and-release as a form of conservation. Furthermore, some anglers fish to spend time outdoors and others for the challenge. As a result, Alaska residents and visitors alike face an inherent challenge in gaining and maintaining awareness of ever-changing fishing opportunities, and in understanding and complying with fishing regulations.

Sport fishing regulations have increased in complexity, and recent restrictions to Chinook salmon fishing opportunity as well as guided halibut fishing opportunity have exacerbated the ability to stay informed. Informing people about Alaska's recreational fishing opportunities, access, regulations, and fisheries management in a timely manner and using modern approaches is essential to maintaining angler participation and satisfaction. Declining budgets have nearly eliminated educational fishery programs in the schools. Our focus going forward will be on fully staffing our public information and visitor centers and capitalizing on new technologies including electronic and social media to improve public information delivery and service.

Significant Changes in Results to be Delivered in FY2018

Communication and Public Service

The Division of Sport Fish has embarked on a strategic approach to modernize and improve how we deliver sport fishing regulations to the public to improve understanding and foster improved compliance. Our immediate goal is to assess the public's understanding of our existing regulation summary booklets, solicit input regarding the method(s) by which they would like to receive this type of information, and work to modify delivery methods based on their input.

In the longer-term, we intend to develop and implement data-driven and geographic-based web and mobile-friendly applications that will improve the public's ability to participate in Alaska's vast sport fishing opportunities.

Electronic Reporting (e-logbooks)

Beginning in 2005, sport fishing businesses and guides have been required to report guided fishing activity including number of anglers, trips, and catch and harvest information for management purposes and did so using paper logbooks. In 2016, the division developed an e-logbook prototype enabled for mobile devices and provided it to select freshwater guides to voluntarily pilot in lieu of the standard paper logbook. Their feedback was generally positive which thereby puts the division on track for full implementation for businesses and guides operating in fresh water and willing to use the new reporting tool in 2017. We expect the use of e-logbooks to benefit guides and businesses by making it easier to report activity and improve fishery management through more timely delivery of information. Salt water e-logbooks are under development with an expedited implementation due to lessons learned in the development of fresh water logbooks.

Chinook Salmon Research Initiative Fund Availability

Capital (CIP) funding provided through the Chinook Salmon Research Initiative appropriation and other legislative initiatives to bolster support for Chinook salmon stock assessment is now largely expended. Loss of those funds will lead to reductions in stock assessment projects. Further, there will be significantly less information available to understand stock dynamics and changes in productivity, and for use in managing fisheries.

Contact Information
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**Sport Fisheries
RDU Financial Summary by Component**

All dollars shown in thousands

	FY2016 Actuals				FY2017 Management Plan				FY2018 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
Formula Expenditures None.												
Non-Formula Expenditures												
Sport Fisheries	5,647.5	17,302.5	13,305.0	36,255.0	4,693.3	21,287.4	16,769.3	42,750.0	2,017.4	22,981.1	16,371.5	41,370.0
Sport Fish Hatcheries	54.3	252.8	4,739.1	5,046.2	0.0	312.9	5,420.3	5,733.2	0.0	314.0	5,448.3	5,762.3
Totals	5,701.8	17,555.3	18,044.1	41,301.2	4,693.3	21,600.3	22,189.6	48,483.2	2,017.4	23,295.1	21,819.8	47,132.3

Sport Fisheries
Summary of RDU Budget Changes by Component
From FY2017 Management Plan to FY2018 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>
FY2017 Management Plan	4,693.3	0.0	21,600.3	22,189.6	48,483.2
One-time items:					
-Sport Fisheries	0.0	0.0	-500.0	0.0	-500.0
Adjustments which continue current level of service:					
-Sport Fisheries	-2,675.9	0.0	3,325.2	102.2	751.5
-Sport Fish Hatcheries	0.0	0.0	1.1	28.0	29.1
Proposed budget decreases:					
-Sport Fisheries	0.0	0.0	-1,131.5	-500.0	-1,631.5
FY2018 Governor	2,017.4	0.0	23,295.1	21,819.8	47,132.3