

Non-Boating Angler Access Projects

FY2020 Request: \$1,000,000
Reference No: 62547

AP/AL: Appropriation **Project Type:** Construction
Category: Natural Resources
Location: Statewide **House District:** Statewide (HD 1-40)
Impact House District: Statewide (HD 1-40) **Contact:** Tom Brookover
Estimated Project Dates: 07/01/2019 - 06/30/2024 **Contact Phone:** (907)267-2150

Brief Summary and Statement of Need:

Non-boating access projects such as trails, small launch ramps and floating docks have been developed by using operating funds within a fiscal year. However, many of the high priority non-boating projects are never realized because of fiscal year constraints and complications caused by agency permitting and public scoping processes. To date, the Division has dedicated capital budget needs specifically to the Boating Access program given time needed to fully develop large construction projects. By establishing a dedicated appropriation in the capital budget, we would be able to fully develop many of these projects by gaining flexibility with time.

Funding:	FY2020	FY2021	FY2022	FY2023	FY2024	FY2025	Total
1024 Fish/Game	\$1,000,000						\$1,000,000
Total:	\$1,000,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,000,000

<input type="checkbox"/> State Match Required	<input 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	0
Totals:	0	0

Prior Funding History / Additional Information:

Project Description/Justification:

The Division of Sport Fish optimizes user-based funding to support development of angler access projects that help to meet angler demand and diverse fishing opportunities. To date, the Division has dedicated capital budget needs specifically to the Boating Access program given time needed to fully develop large construction projects. Non-boating access projects such as trails, small launch ramps and floating docks have been developed using operating funds. However, many of the high priority non-boating projects being proposed are never realized because of fiscal year constraints and complications caused by agency permitting and public scoping processes. Below are example high priority projects identified, these projects are preliminary and could be replaced with like projects.

Ward Lake Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Fishing Platform (Ketchikan Road System)-

This is a collaborative project with the US-Forest Service to bring this popular trail up to ADA compliant standards as well as design and construct an ADA compliant fishing platform near the outlet of Ward Lake off the trail. This is a very popular recreational area on the Ketchikan road system used by the public for all kinds

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of recreational activities, and accounts for the most angler days for fishing in freshwaters in the entire Ketchikan area.

Naha River Trail Improvements (north of Ketchikan)-

This also is a collaborative project with the US-Forest Service to make necessary improvements to a 6-mile long trail that begins at a marine float at head of Naha Bay and winds up the watershed to 3 high-value fishing lakes above the saltwater lagoon (Roosevelt Lagoon). This is a popular trail system that provides access to a LUD-II (non-development designation) area on the Tongass National Forest and accounts for the second highest number of angler days fished in the Ketchikan area. The rivers and lakes accessed boast good returns of coho, sockeye and pink salmon as well as abundant populations of Dolly Varden, rainbow and cutthroat trout.

Sheep Creek Stairwell Improvements/Renovation and Vault Latrine Replacement (Upper Cook Inlet)-

This would be a collaborative project with ADNR-DPOR for the removal and replacement of the deteriorating vault latrine, and renovation of existing angler access trail, retaining walls and fence. Heavy rains, age and frequent use have eroded the existing trail and undermined the retaining wall/fence creating unsafe environment for users. Further, the vault latrines have reached the end of their useful lives and are in very poor condition. This is a heavily used area and supports nearly 4,500 angler days per year on average.

Fort Abercrombie State Historical Park/Lake Gertrude ADA Accessible Fishing Platform (Kodiak Area)-

This is a cooperative project with ADNR-DPOR for construction of a small ADA compliant fishing platform that would provide access along the lakeshore to a popular rainbow trout fishing area within this popular park on the Kodiak road system.

Cushman Lake Fishing Platform (Fairbanks Area)-

Cushman Lake is located approximately 2.5 miles south of downtown Fairbanks in the Tanana Lakes Recreation Area. The lake is an enhanced fishery stocked with rainbow trout and Chinook salmon and is heavily used by anglers. This project would construct 2 ADA compliant floating fishing platforms and a hardened trail to a few hardened angling locations (i.e. timber cribbing filled with gravel on the lake shore). The completed improvements would be managed and maintained by the Fairbanks North Star Borough as part of the Tanana Lakes Recreation Area.

Donna Lake Trail Hardening and Rehabilitation (Delta Junction Area)-

The Donna Lake trailhead is located at MP 1,391.9 of the Alaska Highway. The trail then runs approximately 3.75 miles south to the north shore of Donna Lake. Both Donna Lake and Little Donna Lake are popular stocked lakes in the area. As with most trails in the area, this one has been degraded over time due to increasing ATV use. This degradation is causing multiple areas of "spider webbing" effect as users continually keep branching out from the main trail creating new ones around the degraded sections. This project would fund the evaluation and rehabilitation (including possible new construction in spots) of the trail from the highway pullout to the shore of Donna Lake. The improved "sustainable" trail should require little to no ongoing maintenance once project is completed.