

Congressionally Directed Appropriations

FY2025 Request: \$11,700,000
Reference No: AMD 65212

AP/AL: Appropriation **Project Type:** Research / Studies / Planning
Category: Natural Resources **Recipient:** NA
Location: Statewide **House District:** Statewide (HD 1 - 40)
Impact House District: Statewide (HD 1 - 40) **Contact:** Sam Rabung
Estimated Project Dates: 07/01/2024 - 06/30/2029 **Contact Phone:** (907)465-4210

Brief Summary and Statement of Need:

The Division of Commercial Fisheries currently has five congressionally directed spending requests that are being considered in the federal FY2024 appropriations process. This is a placeholder for any requests that are approved.

Funding:	<u>FY2025</u>	<u>FY2026</u>	<u>FY2027</u>	<u>FY2028</u>	<u>FY2029</u>	<u>FY2030</u>	<u>Total</u>
1002 Fed Rcpts	\$11,700,000						\$11,700,000
Total:	\$11,700,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$11,700,000

<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"/> Ongoing
0% = Minimum State Match % Required		<input checked="" 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 Commercial Fisheries currently has five congressionally directed spending requests that are working through the federal FY2024 appropriations process.

(1) Northern Bering Sea, Southern Bering Sea, and Western Gulf of Alaska Survey Charter Vessel support - \$1.2 million. The salmon surveys include partnerships between the Department of Fish and Game (DFG), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS), but due to increases in charters and fuel costs, full funding for survey operations and staffing is not currently available. Additional charter vessel funding will enable in-kind contributions provided by NOAA, DFG, and USFWS to support analyses from survey data.

2) DFG Research Vessel Equipment Upgrades and Maintenance - \$2.5 million. This request supports technology upgrades such as advanced acoustics, remote sensing, remotely operated vehicles (ROVs), trawl survey capabilities, environmental data collection systems, satellite navigation, required safety upgrades and communications technology to support a broad suite of research needs on DFG research vessels.

(3) Juvenile Pacific Salmon Research - \$4 million. Comprehensive research will improve

understanding of critical factors at the juvenile life stage affecting salmon abundance. The research will fill key data gaps in the timing and distribution, migration, rearing, and survival of juvenile salmon from freshwater to nearshore marine habitats. Studies will identify bottlenecks to productivity at the juvenile life-history stage of key salmon stocks, improve forecasting of salmon run abundance, develop new tools for stocks in critical need, and tag immature salmon to facilitate understanding of the primary drivers behind salmon stock declines across Alaska.

(4) Pacific Salmon Health Monitoring - \$2 million. Studies have demonstrated that the health of adult salmon during in-river migration is an important but unmeasured factor for successful spawning. Monitoring for adult *en route* mortality, pathogen and disease load, energy stores, and general spawner health will provide fundamental assessment of this critical life stage and its involvement with declining salmon production across Alaska.

(5) Critical Salmon Stocks: Research and Enhancement - \$2 million. Supports an DFG led cooperative and comprehensive response to widespread decline of salmon abundances including research, assessment, and enhancement activities necessary to restore salmon populations to levels capable of sustaining the communities that depend on subsistence, commercial, and recreational uses of salmon. This includes evaluating the feasibility of restoring Yukon River Chinook salmon by leveraging existing hatchery infrastructure in partnership with Yukon River management entities to produce additional fish to supplement and rebuild wild runs and the use of artificial incubation systems to rehabilitate depressed coastal western Alaska salmon stocks.