

Gulf of Alaska Chinook Salmon

FY2026 Request: \$5,625,000

Reference No: 66170

AP/AL: Appropriation

Project Type: Equipment / Commodities

Category: Natural Resources

Location: Statewide

House District: Statewide (HD 1 - 40)

Impact House District: Statewide (HD 1 - 40)

Contact: Forrest Bowers

Estimated Project Dates: 07/01/2025 - 06/30/2030

Contact Phone: (907)465-6139

Brief Summary and Statement of Need:

Across the range of Chinook salmon, run sizes have generally been decreasing and ocean conditions have been changing, sometimes dramatically. As a result, the Gulf of Alaska Chinook salmon fisheries have been severely restricted or closed for more than a decade and up-to-date information is increasingly necessary to sustainably manage these mixed-stock fisheries. This program is a five-year comprehensive effort by the ADF&G to sample, assess, analyze, and report the stock composition of Chinook salmon harvested across the Gulf of Alaska. An effort of this size is necessary to ensure the accuracy, reliability, and utility of this information for sustainable management of Chinook salmon in this broad region.

Funding:	FY2026	FY2027	FY2028	FY2029	FY2030	FY2031	Total
1004 Gen Fund	\$5,625,000	\$4,200,000	\$3,825,000	\$4,000,000	\$4,225,000		\$21,875,000
Total:	\$5,625,000	\$4,200,000	\$3,825,000	\$4,000,000	\$4,225,000	\$0	\$21,875,000

<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 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:

This request incorporates the Stock Identification of the Chinook Salmon Harvested project that was originally funded in FY2024 to the Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development to be granted to an outside agency. The funding was transferred to the Department of Fish and Game (DFG) in FY2025 as a capital project. In FY2025 \$324,750 was transferred to DFG as a capital project.

Project Description/Justification:

Across the range of Chinook salmon, run sizes have generally been decreasing and ocean conditions have been changing, sometimes dramatically. As a result, the Gulf of Alaska Chinook salmon fisheries have been severely restricted or closed for more than a decade and up-to-date information is increasingly necessary to sustainably manage these mixed-stock fisheries. This program is a five-year comprehensive effort by the DFG to sample, assess, analyze, and report the stock composition of Chinook salmon harvested across the Gulf of Alaska. An effort of this size is necessary to ensure the accuracy, reliability, and utility of this information for sustainable management of Chinook salmon in this broad region in the presence of the challenges that Alaska

faces domestically, nationally (e.g., Endangered Species Act), and internationally (e.g., Pacific Salmon Treaty).

In order to provide the necessary information, the scope of this study must sample all marine harvests of Chinook salmon in recreational and commercial fisheries across the Gulf of Alaska, including South Alaska Peninsula, Kodiak Island, Cook Inlet, Prince William Sound, Copper River, Yakutat, and Southeast Alaska. Some of these fisheries currently have existing programs that collect samples from the Chinook salmon harvest (e.g., Southeast Alaska commercial troll and sport fisheries). The program will design and implement additional sampling of unrepresented harvests (tens of thousands) and integrate the stock identification results with existing programs. This will enable the development of a gulf-wide understanding of fisheries harvests, Chinook productivity, marine distributions, and potential impacts on Alaskans.

This program will involve coordinated action by the Divisions of Commercial Fisheries and Sport Fisheries.