

# Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) Overview

House Resources Committee

January 24, 2025

Commissioner Doug Vincent-Lang





# Constitutional & Statutory Mandates

## The Constitution of the State of Alaska

### **Article 8 – Natural Resources; § 4. Sustained Yield.**

Fish, forests, wildlife, grasslands, and all other replenishable resources belonging to the State shall be utilized, developed, and maintained on the sustained yield principle, subject to preferences among beneficial uses.

## The Alaska Statutes

### **Title 16. Fish and Game; Sec. 16.05.020. Functions of commissioner.**

(2) manage, protect, maintain, improve, and extend the fish, game and aquatic plant resources of the state in the interest of the economy and general well-being of the state.

## Mission Statement

To protect, maintain, and improve the fish, game, and aquatic plant resources of the state, and manage their uses and development in the best interest of the economy and the well-being of the people of the state, consistent with the sustained yield principle.

# Core Services



## Management

Provide hunting, fishing and trapping opportunities; protect and improve habitat and access; protect state's rights to manage its fish and wildlife resources

## Stock Assessment & Research

Ensure sustainability and harvestable surplus; improve assessment and research capabilities, invest in new technologies, anticipate changing conditions

## Customer Service & Public Involvement

Provide and make improvements to information and education services, the Boards and other regulatory processes, licensing, and permitting







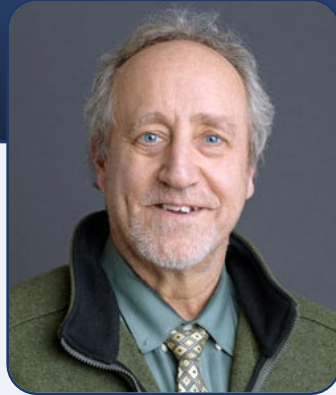
# Leadership



**Bonnie Jensen**  
Administrative Services Director



**Ben Mulligan**  
Deputy Commissioner



**Doug Vincent-Lang**  
Commissioner



**Rachel Baker**  
Deputy Commissioner



**Joe Felkl**  
Legislative Liaison



**Shannon Mason**  
Special Assistant



**Forrest Bowers**  
Acting Director  
Commercial Fisheries



**Israel Payton**  
Director  
Sport Fish



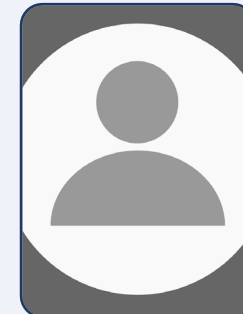
**Ryan Scott**  
Director  
Wildlife Conservation



**Kristy Tibbles**  
Executive Director  
Board of Game



**Art Nelson**  
Executive Director  
Board of Fisheries



**Active Recruitment**  
Director  
Division of Subsistence



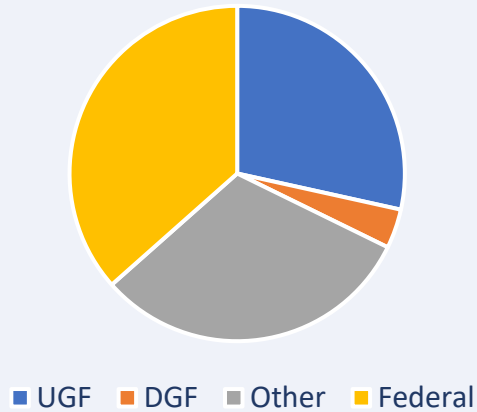
# FY2025 Budget



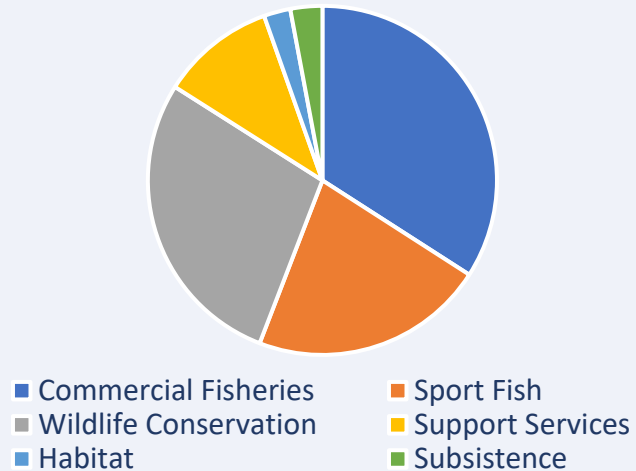
## \*FY2025 Management Plan

- 🐻 \$250 million
- 🐻 828 permanent full-time positions
- 🐻 590 permanent part-time positions
- 🐻 1 non-permanent position

By Fund Source



By Component





# Return on Investment



## Economic Value of Commercially Harvested Alaska Seafood

- 48,000 workers directly employed
- \$161 million in taxes, fees, and self-assessments contributed
- \$6 billion in economic output to Alaska's economy
- 2.3 billion pounds of seafood product
- \$15.8 billion U.S. economic output

[The Economic Value of Alaska's Seafood Industry, April 2024](#) - Study by McKinley Reach Group

## Economic Value of Sport Fisheries

- 15,879 jobs supported
- \$373.9\* million in taxes contributed
- \$828.4\* million in income provided
- \$2.4\* billion industry output

[Economic Impacts and Contributions of Sportfishing in Alaska, 2007](#) - Professional Publication by Southwick Associates, Inc. in collaboration with ADF&G

*\* Dollars were adjusted to account for inflation Jan. 2024*



Photo Credit: Walt Chapman

# Return on Investment Continued...



## Economic Value of Wildlife

- More than 27,000 jobs supported
- \$2.1\* billion in labor income
- \$5.2\* billion spent by hunters and wildlife viewers
- \$5.7\* billion economic activity statewide

[The Economic Importance of Alaska's Wildlife in 2011](#) - ADF&G contracted with ECONorthwest to quantify the economic importance of Alaska's Wildlife

## Economic Value of Subsistence

- Replacement value of the wild food harvest of communities outside non-subsistence areas is estimated between \$215.9-\$431.8\* million and \$288.3-\$576.6\* million for all Alaska communities

[Subsistence in Alaska: A Year 2017 Update](#) – ADF&G Report



*\* Dollars were adjusted to account for inflation Jan. 2024*



# Office of the Commissioner

## Contribution to Department Mission



### Leadership & Direction

- 🦌 Establishes policy and coordinates agency strategy for the protection, management, conservation, and restoration of Alaska's fish and wildlife resources
- 🦌 Executive level oversight of department activities and services
- 🦌 Liaisons with the governor's office, legislature, congressional offices, other government agencies, Native tribes and organizations, and Alaska's fish and wildlife resource stakeholder groups



### Boards & Commissions

- 🦌 Pacific Salmon Commission
- 🦌 North Pacific Fishery Management Council
- 🦌 Alaska Boards of Fisheries and Game
- 🦌 Wide range of other Boards and Commissions

### FY2025 Budget & Positions

- 🦌 \$1.5 million
- 🦌 7 permanent full-time positions



# Division of Commercial Fisheries

Contribution to Department Mission



## Manage subsistence, commercial, & personal use fisheries

- In the interest of the economy and general well being of the citizens of the state
- Consistent with the sustained yield principle
- Subject to allocations through the public Board of Fisheries regulatory processes

## Core Services

- Ensure the conservation of natural stocks of fish, shellfish, and aquatic plants based on scientifically sound assessments



## FY2025 Budget & Positions

- \$85.2 million
- 286 permanent full-time positions
- 387 permanent part-time positions

# Division of Commercial Fisheries

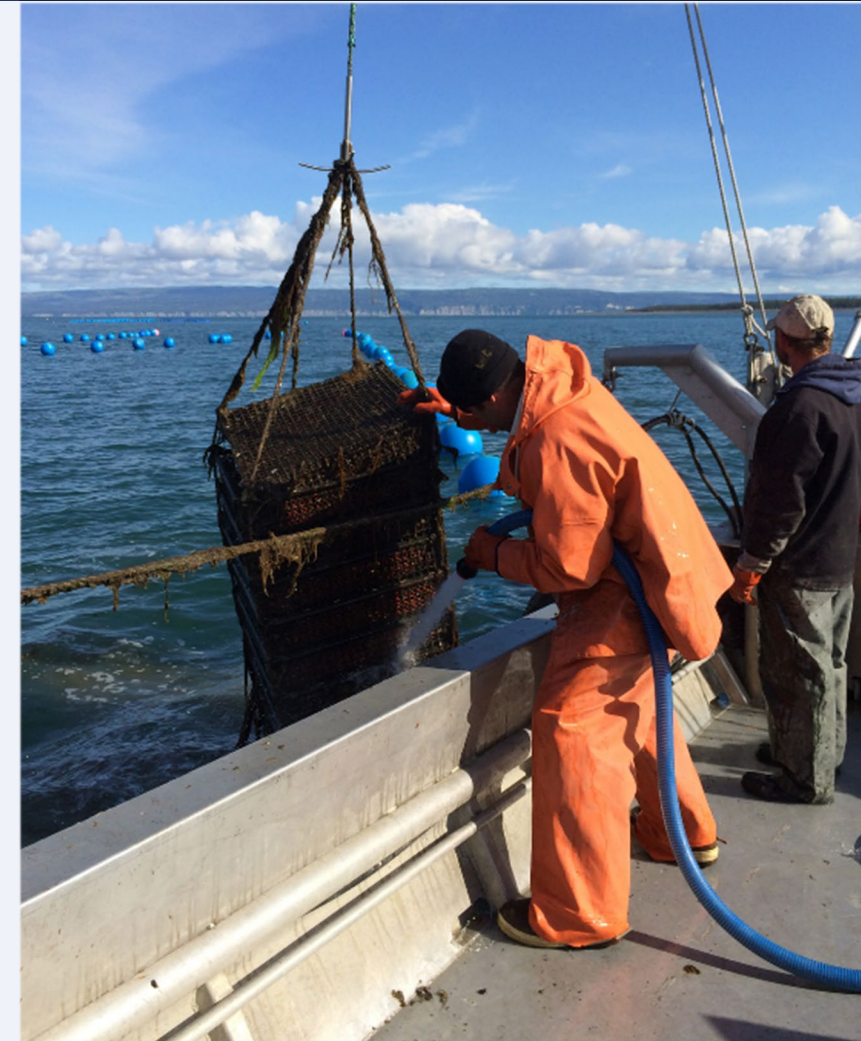


## Major Fisheries

- Salmon
- Herring
- Shellfish
- Groundfish
- Dive Fisheries
- Personal Use/Subsistence Fisheries

## Structure

- Houses five management regions
  - Southeast, Central, Westward, Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim, Statewide
- Houses two chief fisheries scientists
  - Salmon fisheries research
  - Groundfish and crab research
- Houses Gene Conservation, Pathology, and Mark, Tag, & Age Laboratories
- Houses North Pacific Fishery Management Council staff and Pacific Salmon Treaty staff
- Houses statewide aquaculture planning and permitting





# Division of Sport Fish

Contribution to Department Mission



## Protect and improve the state's recreational fisheries resources

### Core Services

- **Fisheries Management:** manage the state's sport fisheries for sustained yield and angler satisfaction
- **Fisheries Research:** perform objective-based research based on sound scientific practices to support sport fisheries management
- **Fisheries Enhancement:** create and diversify sport fishing opportunities for anglers
- **Fish Habitat:** protect and restore fish habitats for the benefit of fish and sport anglers
- **Communication & Outreach:** inform and communicate with the public about sport fishing
- **Internal Operations:** provide leadership and administrative support for the Division's core functions



### FY2025 Budget & Positions

- \$54.4 million
- 176 permanent full-time positions
- 129 permanent part-time positions

# Division of Sport Fish

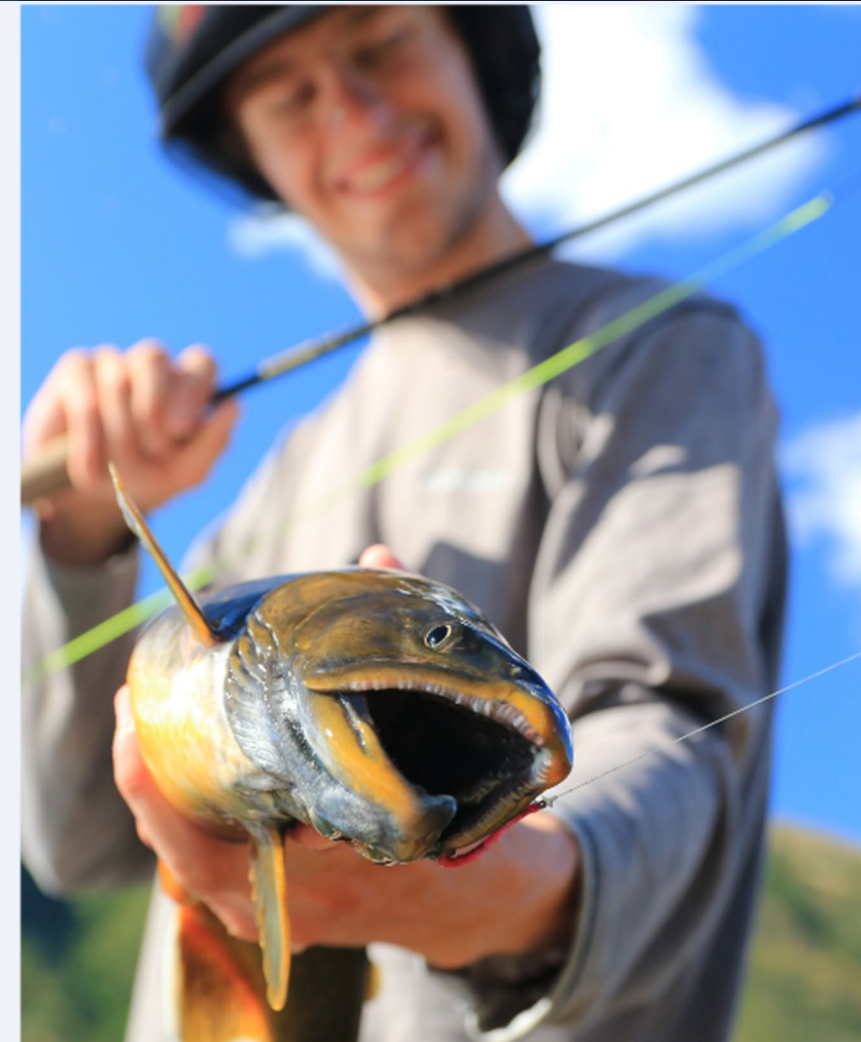


## Major Fisheries

- ✦ Salmon
- ✦ Freshwater fisheries
- ✦ Groundfish
- ✦ Personal Use Fisheries

## Structure

- ✦ Houses three management regions
  - Southeast, Southcentral, Interior
- ✦ Houses Sport Fish Hatchery Operations
- ✦ Houses one chief fisheries scientist
- ✦ Houses Department Invasive Species Program
- ✦ Houses Sport Fish Access Program





# Division of Wildlife Conservation

Contribution to Department Mission



**Conserve and enhance Alaska's wildlife and habitats and provide for a wide range of public uses and benefits**

## Core Services

- 🦌 Maintain and enhance opportunities to hunt, trap, and view wildlife
- 🦌 Provide opportunities for Alaskans to gain knowledge of and appreciation for Alaska's wildlife, its management, and ways to safely and ethically interact with wildlife



## FY2025 Budget & Positions

- 🦌 \$70.3 million
- 🦌 244 permanent full-time positions
- 🦌 44 permanent part-time positions

# Division of Wildlife Conservation



## Major Activities

- 🦌 Management of hunting and trapping across the state
- 🦌 Management of Special Areas
- 🦌 Participation in Board of Game process

## Structure

- 🦌 Houses five management regions
  - Southeast, Southcentral, Interior/Northeast Arctic, Central/Southwest, Western/Northwest Arctic
- 🦌 Houses the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act and Statehood Defense programs
- 🦌 Houses the Hunter Education and Shooting Range program
- 🦌 Houses the Threatened, Endangered, and Diversity program
- 🦌 Houses Waterfowl, Small game, Lands and Refuges programs
- 🦌 Houses Wildlife Health and Veterinary Services program
- 🦌 Houses the Marine Mammal program





# Habitat Section

Contribution to Department Mission



**Conserve Alaska's valuable fish and wildlife resources and their habitats as Alaska's population and economy continue to expand**

## Core Services

- ▲ Review applications and issue permits for activities in fish-bearing waters and special areas under Title 16 authority
- ▲ Coordinate review of natural resource development projects as they go through State and Federal processes to provide expertise on fish, wildlife and their habitats
- ▲ Perform baseline aquatic biomonitoring and applied field research to support permitting, monitoring, compliance and rehabilitation in relation to natural resource development projects
- ▲ Maintain and update the Catalog of Waters Important for Spawning, Rearing, or Migration of Anadromous Fishes



## FY2025 Budget & Positions

- ▲ \$6.2 million
- ▲ 36 permanent full-time positions
- ▲ 2 permanent part-time positions
- ▲ 1 non-permanent positions

# Habitat Section



## Major Activities

- ▲ Title 16 and Special Areas permitting
- ▲ Review of major resource development, transportation and energy projects
- ▲ Maintenance of the Anadromous Waters Catalog
- ▲ Involvement in Department of Natural Resources Project Management & Permitting
- ▲ Pipeline Office Liaison for the current Trans-Alaska pipeline and any future pipeline projects

## Structure

- ▲ Houses three management regions and three area offices
  - Southeast (Douglas), Southcentral (Anchorage), Interior (Fairbanks)
  - Palmer, Kenai, Craig





# Division of Subsistence

Contribution to Department Mission



**Scientifically gather, quantify, evaluate, and report information about customary and traditional uses of Alaska's fish and wildlife resources**

## Core Services

- Compile and analyze existing data and conduct research to gather information on the role of hunting and fishing by Alaskans for customary and traditional uses
- Disseminate current subsistence use information to the public, agencies and organizations, and fisheries and wildlife management divisions
- Assist the Board of Fisheries and the Board of Game to evaluate customary and traditional uses of Alaska's fish and wildlife resources and amounts reasonably necessary for subsistence uses (ANS) of those resources
- Assist fisheries and wildlife managers in preparing management plans to ensure information on customary and traditional uses and harvests of fish and wildlife are incorporated



## FY2025 Budget & Positions

- \$7.4 million
- 21 permanent full-time positions
- 22 permanent part-time positions

# Division of Subsistence



## Major Activities

- ✦ Collection of subsistence use information
- ✦ Participation in the Board process

## Structure

- ✦ Houses two management regions
  - Southern and Northern
- ✦ Houses one statewide program manager overseeing research activities





# Boards Support Section

Contribution to Department Mission



**Facilitates an effective board and public process for the state's fish and wildlife regulatory system**

## Core Services

- ✦ Ensure citizens participating in the fish and game regulatory process have clear and helpful information in advance to engage effectively
- ✦ Provide and support an environment for board members to make effective decisions



## FY2025 Budget & Positions

- ✦ \$1.9 million
- ✦ 6 permanent full-time positions
- ✦ 5 permanent part-time positions

# Boards Support Section



## Major Activities

- ✦ Provide support for the Boards of Fisheries and Game and 84 Advisory Committees
- ✦ Includes:
  - 5 – 8 multi-day, regulatory board meetings
  - Over 150 Advisory Committee Meetings
- ✦ Very involved, open public process

## Structure

- ✦ Houses two executive directors
  - Board of Game
  - Board of Fisheries
- ✦ Two administrative positions
- ✦ Two publication specialists
- ✦ 14 board members





# Administrative Services Section

Contribution to Department Mission



**Provide efficient, cost-effective and customer-oriented administrative services to department programs**

## Core Services

- Centralized administrative support services for programs and projects, including accounting, fiscal management, procurement, property control, contract administration, budget services, information technology services, capital construction, facility maintenance and repair, office space planning, and workforce development
- Administration of the fish and game licensing program
- Provides direct administrative support to the other divisions, sections, and offices



## FY2025 Budget & Positions

- \$16.6 million
- 52 permanent full-time positions
- 1 permanent part-time positions

# Issues/Concerns



- Challenges Facing the Seafood Industry
- Defending Against Federal Erosion of State Management Authority
- Endangered Species Act and Marine Mammal Protection Act Challenges
- Recruitment and Retention
- Vessels and Aircraft Maintenance
- Maintaining Sustainable Fisheries & Opportunities
- Bering Sea Crab
- Coastal Western Alaska Salmon Fisheries
- Intercept and Bycatch
- Federal Fisheries/Upper Cook Inlet Salmon Fishery
- Implementation of the Pacific Salmon Treaty
- Changing Habitat and Weather Events





# Questions?



## THANK YOU!

[Home Page, Alaska Department of Fish and Game \(adfg.alaska.gov\)](http://adfg.alaska.gov)

# Contact Information



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