

# Alaska Department of Fish & Game

## House Resources Committee

### Department Overview



Commissioner Doug Vincent-Lang  
February 24, 2021



# Alaska Department of Fish & Game

## *Constitutional and 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.



# Alaska Department of Fish & Game

## *Core Services*

### **Management**

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

### **Stock Assessment and Research**

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

### **Customer Service and Public Involvement**

Make improvements to information and education services, the Boards and other regulatory processes, licensing and permitting.



# Alaska Department of Fish & Game

## *Return on Investment*

***The Alaska Department of Fish and Game turns a \$198 million dollar (of which \$62 million is GF) into a return of over \$11 billion annually.***

### Economic Value of Commercially Harvested Alaska Seafood:

- Directly employs 60,000 workers annually, more than any other industry in Alaska – Largest private sector employer in Alaska
- Contributes \$146 million in taxes, fees, and self-assessments which help fund state, local and federal government
- Alaska seafood contributes an annual average of \$5 billion in economic output to the Alaska economy
- Alaska exports over 1 million metric tons of seafood each year, returning over \$3 billion of new money into the U.S. economy

### Economic Value of Sport Fisheries

- 15,879 Jobs supported
- \$246 million in taxes contributed (adjusted for inflation, \$298.64 million in 2019 dollars)
- \$545 million in income provided (adjusted for inflation, \$661.63 million in 2019 dollars)
- \$1.6 billion industry output. (adjusted for inflation, \$1.950 billion in 2019 dollars)



# Alaska Department of Fish & Game

## *Return on Investment Continued*

***The Alaska Department of Fish and Game turns a \$198 million dollar (of which \$62 million is GF) into a return of over \$11 billion annually.***

### Economic value of Wildlife

- More than 27,000 Jobs supported
- 1.4 billion in labor income (adjusted for inflation, 1.566 billion in 2019 dollars)
- 3.4 billion spent by hunters and wildlife viewers (adjusted for inflation, 3.87 billion in 2019 dollars)
- \$4.1 billion economic activity statewide. (adjusted for inflation, 4.59 billion in 2019 dollars)

### Economic Value of Subsistence

- 2014 Nutritional replacement value schedules show that subsistence provides Alaskans with between \$183,878,022- \$367,756,045 (\$200,826,510- \$391,020,417 adjusted for inflation to 2019 dollars) worth of wild food per year.



# Alaska Department of Fish & Game Leadership



Melissa Hill  
DAS Deputy Director



Ben Mulligan  
Deputy Commissioner



Doug Vincent-Lang  
Commissioner



Rachel Baker  
Deputy Commissioner



Rachel Hanke  
Legislative Liaison



Rick Green  
Special Assistant



Sam Rabung  
Director  
Commercial Fisheries



Dave Rutz  
Director  
Sport Fish



Eddie Grasser  
Director  
Wildlife Conservation



Kristy Tibbles  
Executive Director  
Board of Game



Glenn Haight  
Executive Director  
Board of Fisheries

Habitat  
Section

Subsistence  
Research  
Section

*Two affiliate groups are housed in ADF&G: CFEC and EVOS*



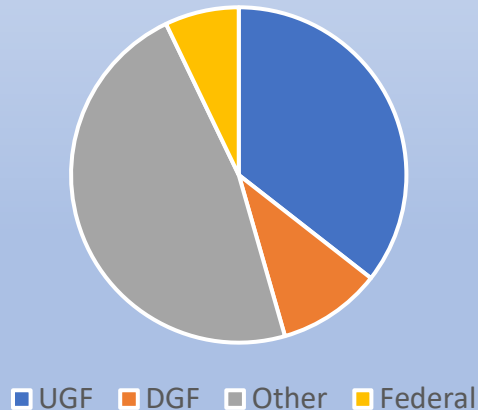
# Alaska Department of Fish & Game

## *Budget*

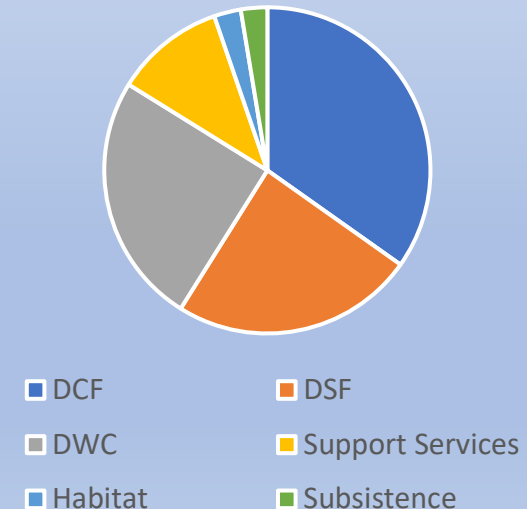
### FY 2020 Authorized Budget

- \$202,781 million
- 835 permanent full-time positions
- 605 permanent part-time positions and 8 non-permanent position

By Fund Source



By Component





# Alaska Department of Fish & Game

## *FY2022 Budget Highlights*

- The Department will be able to continue to provide an excellent return on investment as we have in the past under the governor's proposed budget.
- The proposed budget includes \$26 million to fisheries, wildlife, and resource projects.
- We do not anticipate any reduction in services as a result of the proposed budget.
- We were able to use alternative funding sources and cost efficiencies to reduce our general fund needs.
- We are consolidating the various budget components in the Division of Commercial Fisheries into a single unit to improve efficiency.





# Office of the Commissioner

## Contribution to Department Mission

The Office of the Commissioner provides leadership and direction for the department by establishing policy and coordinating agency strategy for the protection, management, conservation, and restoration of Alaska's fish and wildlife resources. Commissioner's office staff provide executive level oversight of department activities and services, and serve as 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.

The Office of the Commissioner also fulfills our obligations on various Boards and Commissions. For example:

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

By Fund Source



■ UGF ■ DGF ■ Other ■ Federal

## FY 2020 Authorized Budget

\$1.2 million

7 permanent full-time positions



# Division of Commercial Fisheries

## Contribution to Department Mission

The mission of the Division of Commercial Fisheries is to manage subsistence, commercial, and 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, and subject to allocations through public regulatory processes.

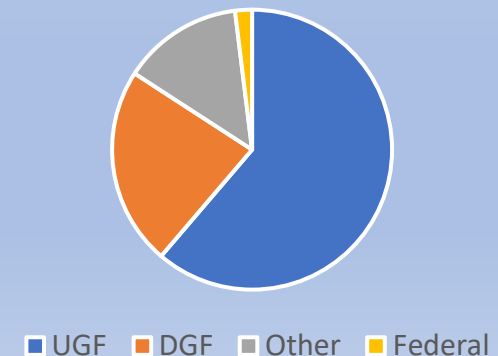
## Core Services

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

## FY 2020 Authorized Budget

- \$70.5 million
- 295 permanent full-time positions
- 373 permanent part-time positions

By Fund Source





# Division of Commercial Fisheries

## Major Fisheries

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

## Structure

- Houses 4 management regions (Southeast, Central, Westward, AYK)
- Houses two chief fisheries scientists
  - Salmon fisheries research
  - Groundfish and crab research
- Houses the federal fisheries coordination staff and Pacific Salmon Treaty Staff



# Division of Sport Fish

## Contribution to Department Mission

The mission of the Division of Sport Fish is to protect and improve the state's sport fishery resources.

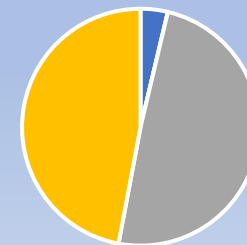
## Core Services

- **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 and Outreach:** Inform and communicate with the public about sport fishing.
- **Internal Operations:** Provide leadership and administrative support for the Division's core functions.

## FY 2020 Authorized Budget

- \$40.9 million
- 187 permanent full-time positions
- 145 permanent part-time positions

By Fund Source





# Division of Sport Fish

## Major Fisheries

- Salmon
- Freshwater fisheries
- Groundfish
- Personal Use Fisheries

## Structure

- Houses 3 management regions (Southeast, Southcentral, Interior)
- Houses Sport Fish Hatchery Operations
- Houses one chief fisheries scientists
- Houses Department Invasive Species Program
- Houses Sport Fish Access Program





# Division of Wildlife

## Contribution to Department Mission

The mission of the Division of Wildlife Conservation is to conserve and enhance Alaska's wildlife and habitats and provide for a wide range of public uses and benefits.

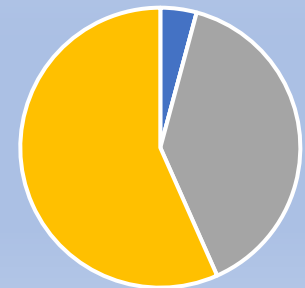
## Core Services

- 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.

## FY 2020 Authorized Budget

- \$50.5 million
- 231 permanent full-time positions
- 52 permanent part-time & non-permanent positions

By Fund Source



■ UGF ■ DGF ■ Other ■ Federal



# Division of Wildlife

## Major Activities

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

## Structure

- Houses 3 management regions (Southeast, Southcentral, Interior, Central/Southwest)
- Houses Department ANILCA/State Defense program
- Houses one chief wildlife scientist
- Houses Department Veterinary Program
- Houses Shooting Range Program
- Houses Department Waterfowl Program
- Houses Department ESA Program
- Houses Department Marine Mammal Program
- Houses Department Wildlife Diversity Program



# Habitat Section

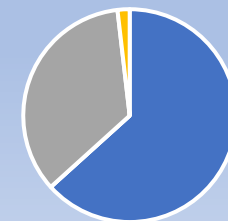
## Contribution to Department Mission

Protect 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 legislatively designated Special areas; provide expertise to protect important fish and wildlife habitat; monitor authorized projects and conduct compliance actions.
- Manage Alaska's Special Areas in accordance with legislative guidelines; prepare and update management plans for these areas.
- Review proposed timber harvest activities; conduct field inspections; work cooperatively with timber operators and other governmental agencies
- Review development projects (e.g., oil and gas, hard rock mining, hydroelectric) authorized under other agencies' authorities.
- Maintain and update the "Catalog of Waters Important for Spawning, Rearing, or Migration of Anadromous Fishes."
- Conduct applied research to develop methods and means to minimize impacts of development projects on fish and wildlife resources
- Seek opportunities to improve and protect habitat in cooperation with state and federal agencies, local governments, non-governmental organizations, and others.

By Fund Source



## FY 2020 Authorized Budget

- \$5.4 million
- 37 permanent full-time positions
- 3 permanent part-time & non-permanent positions



# Habitat Section

## Major Activities

- Title 16 permitting
- Special Areas permitting
- Maintenance of the Anadromous Fish Catalog
- Involvement in the DNR Project Management and Permitting Program
- Pipeline Office Liaison

## Structure

- Houses 3 management regions (Southeast, Southcentral, Interior)



# Subsistence Research Section

## Contribution to Department Mission

The mission of the Subsistence Section is to scientifically gather, quantify, evaluate, and report information about customary and traditional uses of Alaska's fish and wildlife resources. (AS 16.05.094)

## Core Services

- Compile and analyze existing data; 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; appropriate agencies and organizations; and fisheries and wildlife management divisions.
- Assist the Board of Fisheries, the Board of Game, and the Joint Board of Fisheries and 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 fish and wildlife harvests is incorporated.

By Fund Source



## FY 2020 Authorized Budget

- \$5.3 million
- 22 permanent full-time positions
- 27 permanent part-time & non-permanent positions





# Subsistence Research Section

## Major Activities

- Collection of Subsistence Use Information
- Participation in the Board process

## Structure

- Houses 2 management regions (Southern and Northern)
- Houses statewide program manager position overseeing research activities



# Boards Support Section

## Contribution to Department Mission

The Boards Support Section facilitates an effective board and public process for the state's fish and wildlife regulatory system.

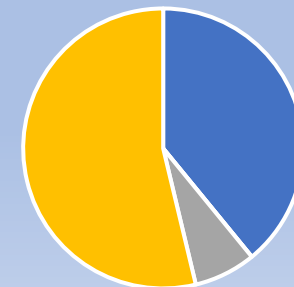
## Core Services

- 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.

## FY 2020 Authorized Budget

- \$1.2 million
- 6 permanent full-time positions

By Fund Source





# Boards Support Section

## Major Activities

- Support of the Boards of Fisheries and Game process

## Structure

- Houses 2 executive director positions (Board of Game and Board of Fisheries)



# Advisory Committee Support Section

## Contribution to Department Mission

The Boards Support Section facilitates an effective board and public process for the state's fish and wildlife regulatory system.

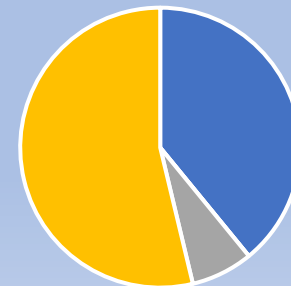
## Core Services

- 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.

## FY 2020 Authorized Budget

- \$0.5 million
- 0 permanent full-time positions

By Fund Source



■ UGF ■ DGF ■ Other ■ Federal



# Administrative Services Section

## Contribution to Department Mission

The mission of the Division of Administrative Services is to provide efficient, cost-effective and customer oriented administrative services to department programs.

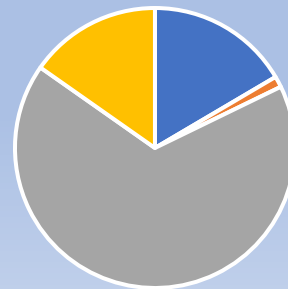
## Core Services

- Centralized administrative support services to the full range of programs and projects conducted by the Department of Fish and Game, inclusive of 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 components in the Administration and Support Results Delivery Unit and the Commissioner's Office.

By Fund Source

## FY 2020 Authorized Budget

- \$11.7million
- 46 permanent full-time positions







# Alaska Department of Fish & Game

*Last year*

***The Department worked to ensure we had the necessary research and management infrastructure in place to safely conduct fisheries and hunts across Alaska***

- Nearly all commercial fisheries were conducted, allowing commercial fishermen to fish their permits and thereby make a living and contribute to the state and local economies through collected fish taxes.
- Sport and personal use fisheries operated, allowing anglers an opportunity to fill their freezers, feed their families, and get outside.
- Subsistence fisheries and hunts occurred, allowing subsistence harvesters opportunities to feed their communities and pass on traditions.
- Hunts occurred throughout Alaska, giving Alaskans opportunities to fill their freezers and pass on traditions.
- Charter fishing and guided hunting operated, providing needed recreational opportunities and economic boosts to the state and local economies.



# Alaska Department of Fish & Game

## *Issues/Concerns*

- Reduced marine survivals of salmon
- Federal intrusion into state management authority
- COVID-19 impacts e.g., lost license revenue to Fish and Game Fund
- Impacts associate with implementation of the Endangered Species Act and the Marine Mammal Protection Act
- Urban wildlife management issues
- Hatchery-wild stock interactions



# Alaska Department of Fish & Game

## *Legislative Bill Priorities*

- Sport fish hatchery license surcharge (SB60/HB80)
- Saltwater guide licensing for saltwater logbook program (SB59/HB79)
- Intensive management surcharge sunset (SB22)