



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

Department of Fish and Game

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May 4, 2026

The Honorable Lyman Hoffman, Co-Chair
Senate Finance Committee
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol Building, Room 518
Juneau, AK 99801

The Honorable Donald Olson, Co-Chair
Senate Finance Committee
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol Building, Room 508
Juneau, AK 99801

The Honorable Bert Stedman, Co-Chair
Senate Finance Committee
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol Building, Room 516
Juneau, AK 99801

Submitted electronically via email

Dear Co-Chairs Hoffman, Olson, and Stedman:

As a follow-up to the Senate Finance Committee hearing on SB174, please find below the Alaska Department of Fish and Game's (ADF&G) response to the request for information regarding appropriation requests related to invasive species management over the past ten years.

Over the past decade, the department has not submitted a budget increment request specific to invasive species work. There have been requests for increases in Fish and Game Fund (FGF) authority, which supports a variety of Division of Sport Fish programs, including invasive species management.

The department's invasive species program is housed in the Division of Sport Fish. There is one permanent full-time statewide program coordinator based at Headquarters in Juneau, and there is a separate program for Northern Pike and aquatic invasive species management in Southcentral. Regional staff involved in pike research, suppression and eradication efforts include four permanent full-time biologists and four permanent part-time seasonal technicians based in Soldotna and Palmer. These regional staff are essential to the statewide program, providing expertise in invasive fish eradication and serving as on-the-ground support for early detection monitoring and suppression projects in Southcentral.

The ADF&G staff have been successful in identifying and securing federal grant funding to support invasive species management, which is often matched using state funds, and statutory designated program receipts, which may not require match. Over the past ten years, funding for both programs

has averaged approximately one million dollars annually. Attachment 1 includes a graph showing a breakdown of budget allocations for invasive species management. Funding levels fluctuate based on grant funding opportunities and planned eradication efforts. The department also works closely with partners across the state, many of whom receive their own funding to support invasive species management within their local communities.

Funding sources for the statewide invasive species program include U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) grants, a portion of which is State Wildlife Grant funding, matched with unrestricted general funds (UGF), and some Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission funding. For pike eradication, the USFWS funding from State Wildlife Grants and Dingell-Johnson funds are used along with grant funding from the Alaska Sustainable Salmon Fund. State match includes a mix of UGF and FGF.

The statewide coordinator works across regions and divisions to address invasive issues which requires reaching out to other agencies to assist and may include other state agency staff such as the Department of Natural Resources and federal agency staff who may have authorities to address issues that the State does not. For example, interstate commerce and transport such as addressing contaminated boats and trailers crossing borders into Alaska that have zebra mussels; and sale of decorative aquatic plants for aquariums containing zebra mussel or crayfish larvae. The statewide program coordinator has coordinated efforts dealing with invasive tunicates in Whiting Harbor near Sitka, signal crayfish on Kodiak Island, rats in Unalaska, foxes on St. Paul Island and others which all require significant effort.

Most recently, the department coordinator has partnered with the USFWS, National Marine Fisheries Service, Pacific States Marine Fisheries, Kachemak Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, and Metlakatla Indian Community to update the Early Detection and Rapid Response Plan for European Green Crab (EGC) in Alaska given detection of EGC in Annette Island waters in 2022. The department expanded detection efforts in state waters of southern Southeast Alaska in 2023 – 2025 and will continue to survey preferred habitats by EGC in state waters as funding allows. The statewide program coordinator engaged with citizen scientists from 11 communities from Ketchikan to Dutch Harbor in 2025 and facilitated training opportunities in Homer, Ketchikan, and Kasaan, 2024 – 2025. Examples of northern pike eradication in Southcentral Alaska include removal of northern pike from all known infested systems on the Kenai Peninsula and continued efforts in the Susitna River drainage.

Please contact my office if you have further questions.

Sincerely,

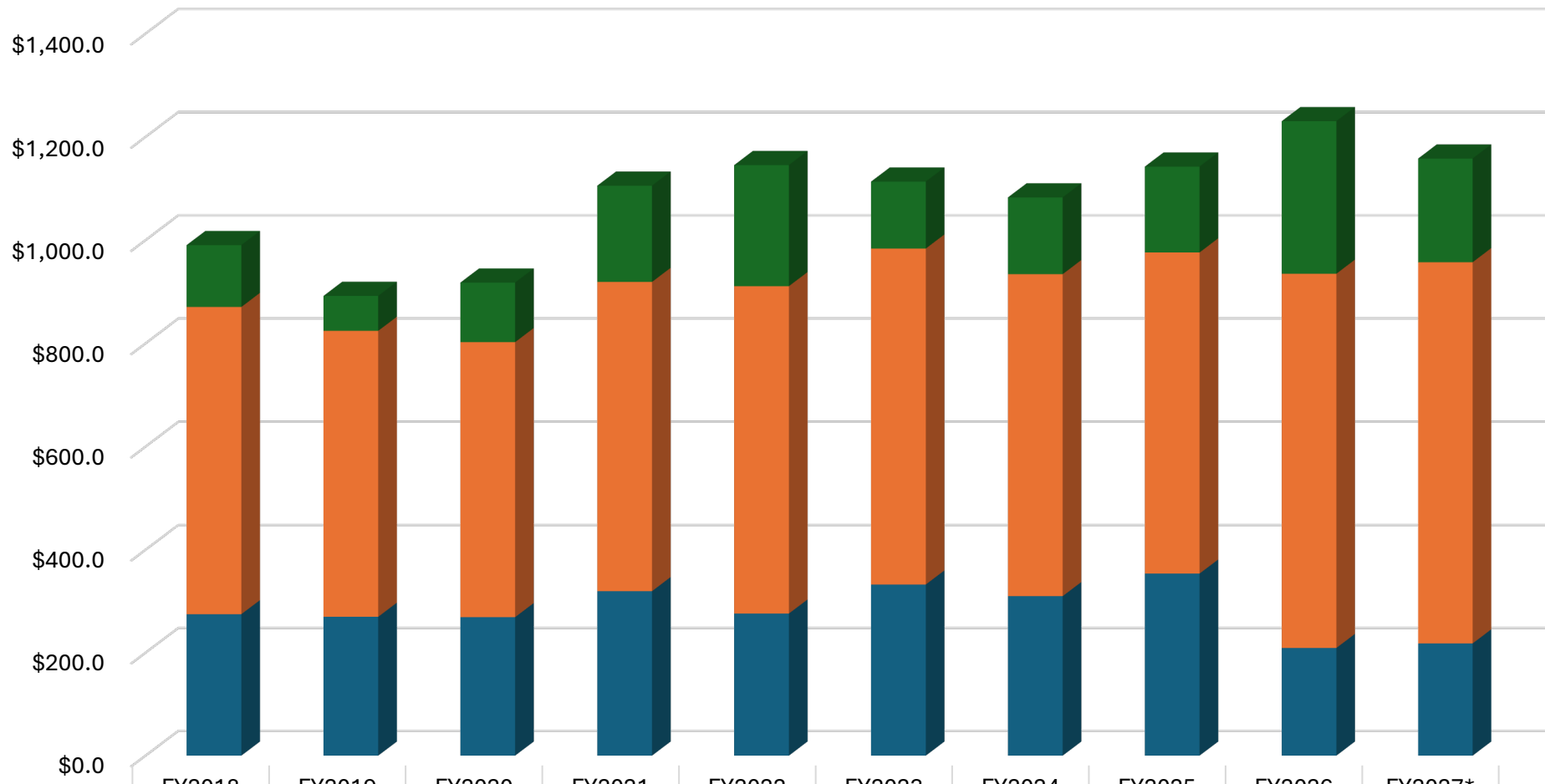


Doug Vincent-Lang
Commissioner

Enclosure

cc: Lacey Sanders, Director, Office of Management and Budget
Jordan Shilling, Legislative Director, Office of the Governor

Attachment 1: Invasive Species Management Funding FY2018-2027 (Dollars in thousands)



	FY2018	FY2019	FY2020	FY2021	FY2022	FY2023	FY2024	FY2025	FY2026	FY2027*
Capital	\$119.8	\$67.6	\$115.3	\$186.4	\$234.5	\$129.6	\$148.6	\$166.2	\$295.5	\$200.8
Southcentral Region	\$595.7	\$554.5	\$533.3	\$599.4	\$634.7	\$651.2	\$624.2	\$622.4	\$725.7	\$739.2
Statewide Coordination	\$274.8	\$269.8	\$269.1	\$319.6	\$276.1	\$332.5	\$309.9	\$353.8	\$209.2	\$218.0

*FY2018-2026 numbers are based on final allocations while FY2027 are estimated based on the requested budget.