

# Department of Fish and Game

## FY2027 Governor's Budget Overview

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### House Finance Committee

Doug Vincent-Lang, Commissioner

Bonnie Jensen, Administrative Services Director

February 6, 2026



# Constitutional & Statutory Mandates



Photo credit: Justin Crawford, 2015

Photo credit: Aubrey Day

## State of Alaska Constitution

### 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

## Alaska Statutes

### AS 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 state's rights to manage its fish and wildlife resources, conserve and improve habitat and access

## Stock Assessment & Research

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

## Customer Service & Public Involvement

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



# FY2027 Budget Highlights



**The Department will continue to provide an excellent return on investment as we have in the past under the Governor's proposed budget.**

- ADF&G turns ~\$275-million-dollar investment, ~\$78 million is general fund, into a return of ~\$15 billion dollars annually
- Continued funding for fishery assessment programs with a focus on marine research, sonar technology, genetics, and Gulf of Alaska Chinook salmon
- Adds funding for increased laboratory costs, realigns federal authority for wildlife management and sport fish operations, and increases Capital Improvement Projects receipt authority for Marine Mammal projects and personal services needs



# Fish and Game Leadership



**Bonnie Jensen**  
Administrative Services Director



**Ben Mulligan**  
Deputy Commissioner



**Doug Vincent-Lang**  
Commissioner



**Rachel Baker**  
Deputy Commissioner



**Joe Felkl**  
Acting Legislative Liaison



**Patty Sullivan**  
Communications Director



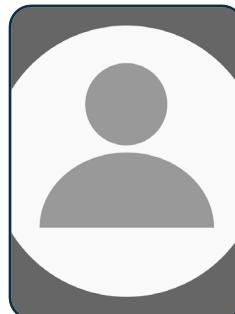
**Forrest Bowers**  
Acting Director  
Commercial Fisheries



**Israel Payton**  
Director  
Sport Fish



**Ryan Scott**  
Director  
Wildlife Conservation



**Active Recruitment**  
Executive Director  
Board of Game



**Art Nelson**  
Executive Director  
Board of Fisheries



**George Pappas**  
Director  
Division of Subsistence





# Budget Structure

## Statewide Support Services

- Commissioner's Office
- Administrative Services
- Boards of Fisheries and Game
- Advisory Committees
- \*Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council
- State Facilities Maintenance and Operations

## Wildlife Conservation

- Wildlife Conservation
- Hunter Education Public Shooting Ranges

## Commercial Fisheries

- Southeast Region Fisheries Mgmt.
- Central Region Fisheries Mgmt.
- Arctic Yukon Kuskokwim Region Fisheries Mgmt.
- Westward Region Fisheries Mgmt.
- Statewide Region Fisheries Mgmt.
- \*Commercial Fish Entry Commission (CFEC)

## Subsistence Research & Monitoring

- State Subsistence Research

## Habitat Section

- Habitat

## Sport Fish

- Sport Fisheries

## Southeast Hatcheries

- Southeast Hatcheries

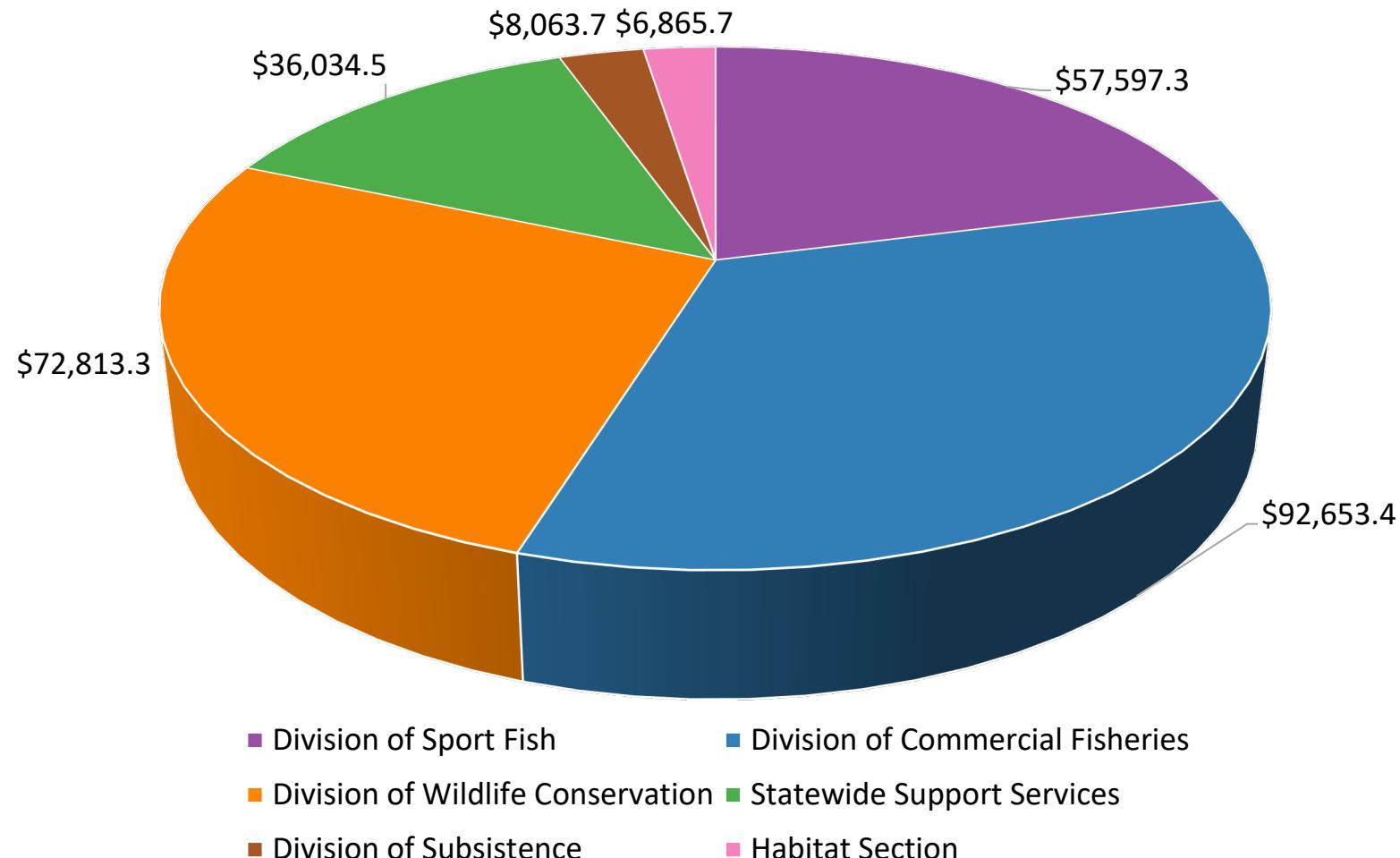
## Anchorage & Fairbanks Hatcheries

- Anchorage and Fairbanks Hatcheries



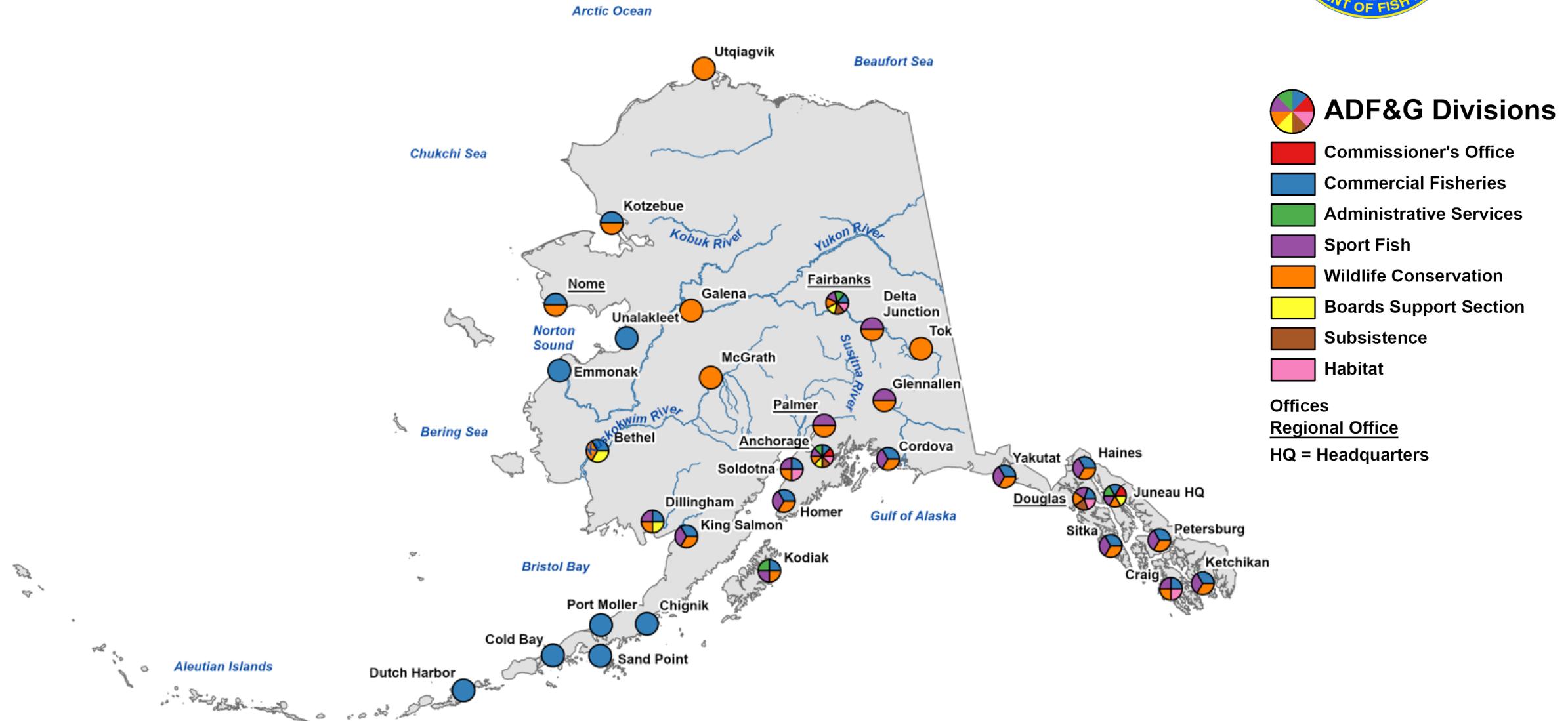
# FY2027 Division Breakdown

(all \$ in thousands)

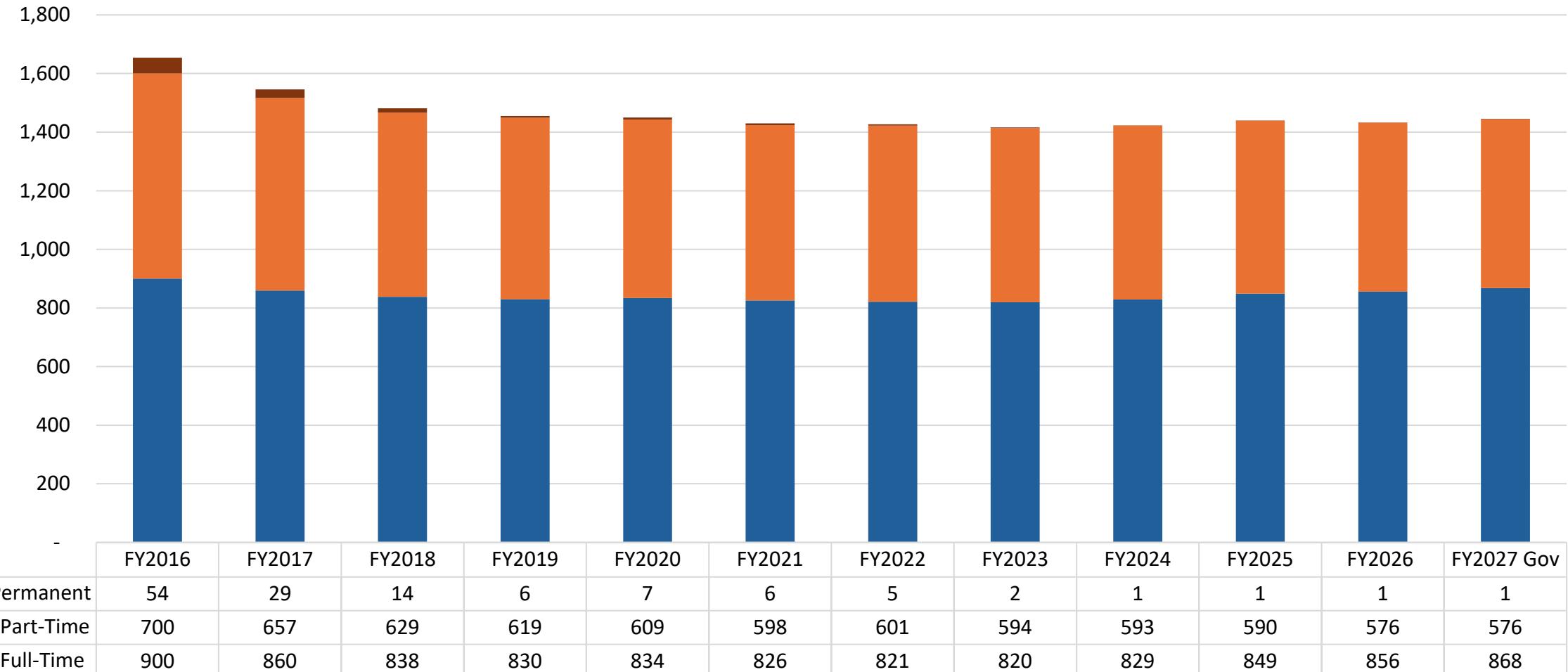




# Fish and Game Offices

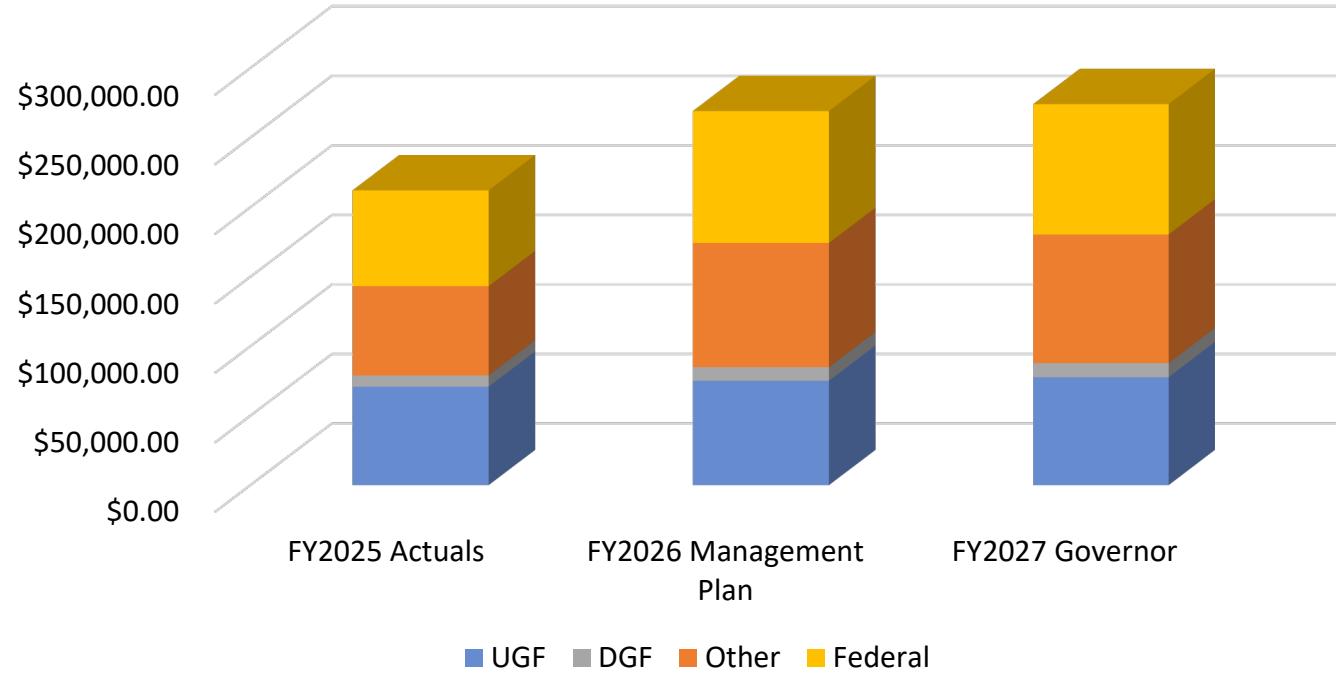


# FY2027 Budgeted Positions and History



# FY2027 Operating Budget Comparison

(all \$ in thousands)



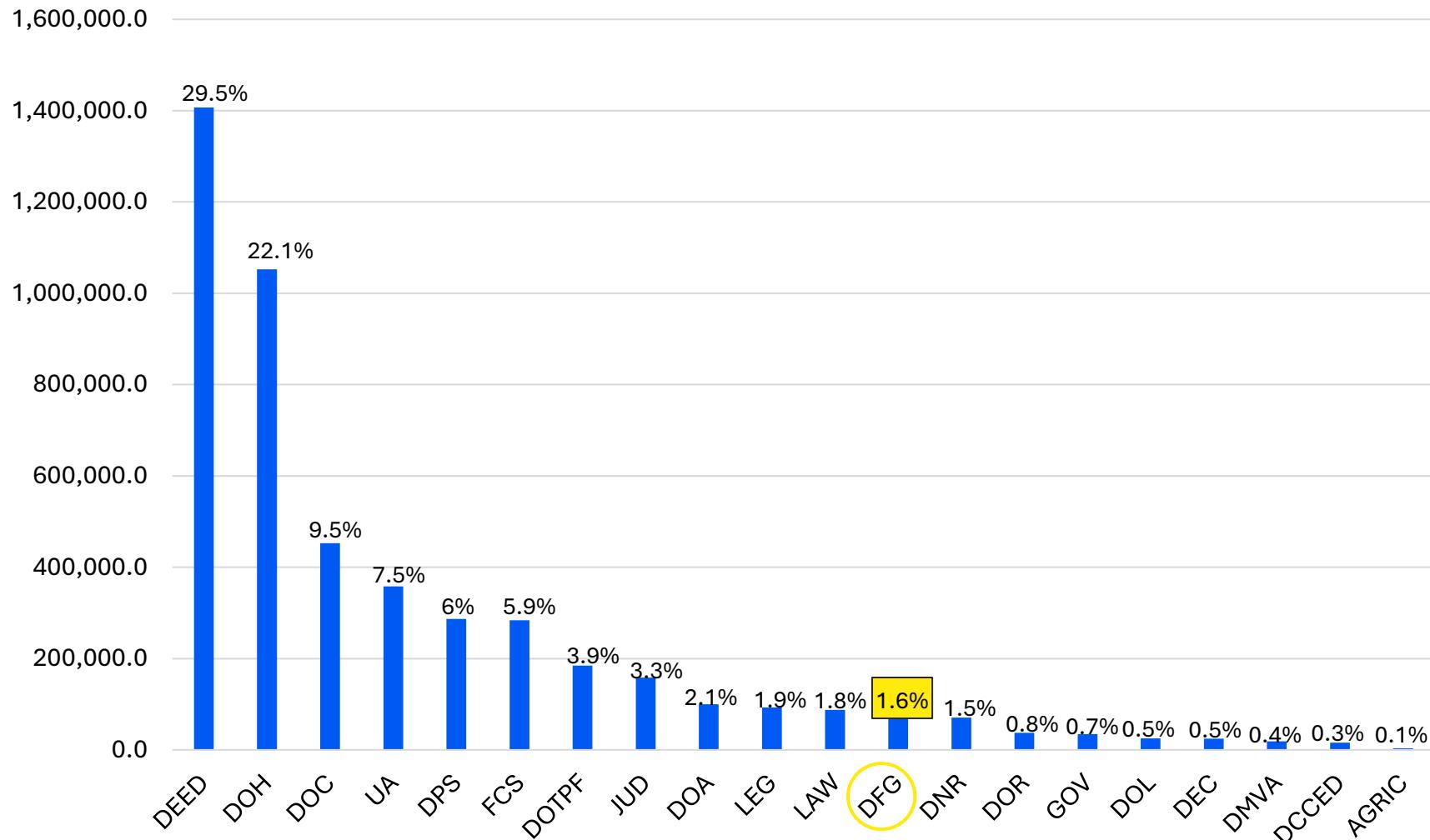
	FY2025 Actuals	FY2026 Management Plan	FY2027 Governor	FY2026 to FY2027 Difference
UGF	\$70,832.8	\$75,108.7	\$77,712.1	\$2,603.4
DGF	\$8,057.6	\$9,800.0	\$10,072.6	\$272.6
Other	\$64,325.0	\$89,387.4	\$92,579.4	\$3,192.0
Federal	\$68,870.5	\$94,760.0	\$93,663.8	(\$1,096.2)
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$212,085.9</b>	<b>\$269,056.1</b>	<b>\$274,027.9</b>	<b>\$4,971.8</b>



\*Budget totals do not include the Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC)

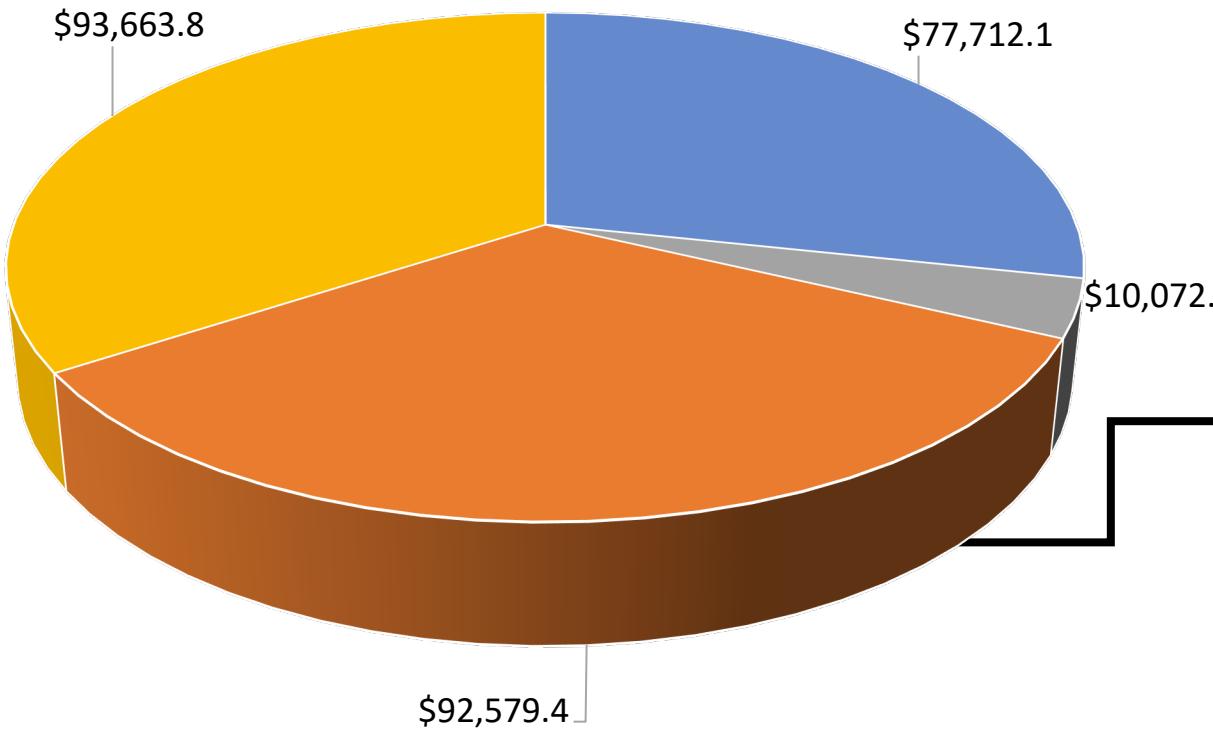
# FY2027 Unrestricted General Funds

(all \$ in thousands)

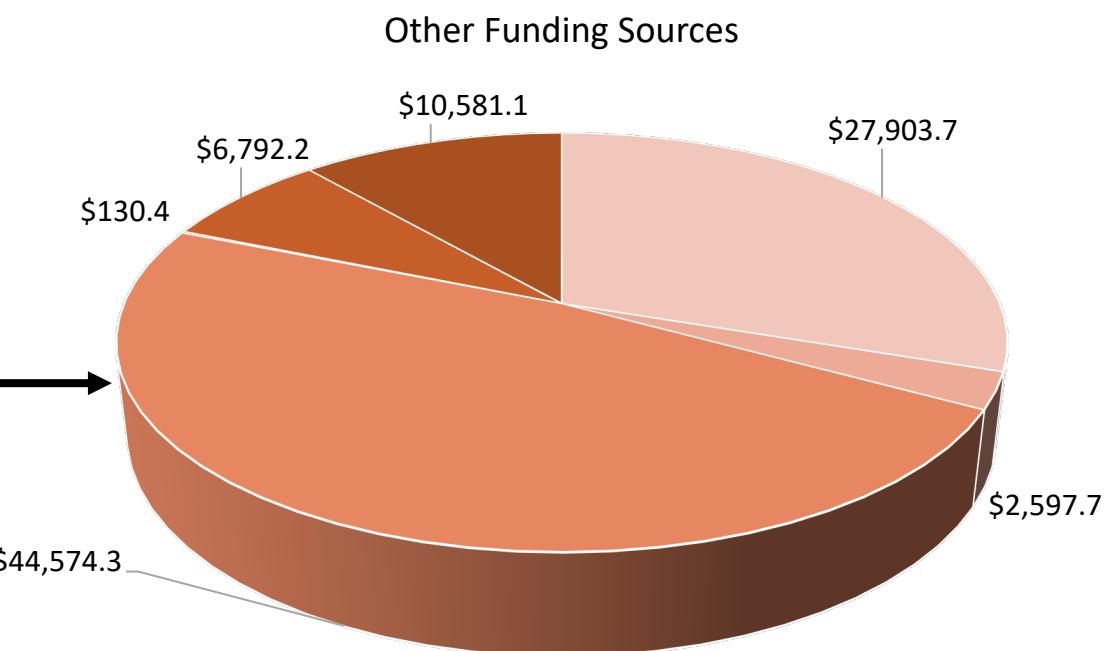


# FY2027 Funding Sources

(all \$ in thousands)



■ UGF ■ DGF ■ Other ■ Federal



■ 1007 Interagency Receipts  
■ 1018 Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Settlement  
■ 1024 Fish and Game Fund  
■ 1055 Interagency/Oil & Hazardous Waste  
■ 1061 Capital Improvement Project Receipts  
■ 1108 Statutory Designated Program Receipts

# Federal Pittman-Robertson (PR) Program



## Purpose and Eligible Projects

- 🦌 Restoration, conservation, management, and enhancement of wild birds and wild mammals and their habitats
- 🦌 Public use and access to wildlife resources
- 🦌 Hunter education and development of shooting ranges

## Source of Funds

- 🦌 Excise taxes on sporting arms and ammunitions including pistols, handguns, revolvers, bows, archery, and arrow components

## How Funds are Distributed Among States

- 🦌 Apportioned to states based on size and number of hunting licenses sold
  - Alaska receives maximum apportionment of 5%
  - Funds must be obligated within two years
  - 75% federal PR funds with 25% state match (Fish & Game Fund)



# Federal Dingell-Johnson (DJ) Program



## Purpose and Eligible Projects

- ⇒ Restore, conserve, manage, and enhance sport fish, and provide for public use and benefit from these resources
  - *Sport fish are limited to aquatic, gill breathing, vertebrate animals, bearing paired fins, and having material value for sport or recreation*
- ⇒ Public education on water resources and aquatic life forms

## Source of Funds

- ⇒ Excise taxes on sport fishing equipment, recreational powerboats, and gasoline used in recreational boating

## How Funds are Distributed Among States

- ⇒ Apportioned to states based on acreage and number of angler licenses sold
  - Alaska receives maximum apportionment of 5%
  - Funds must be obligated within two years
  - 75% federal DJ funds with 25% state match

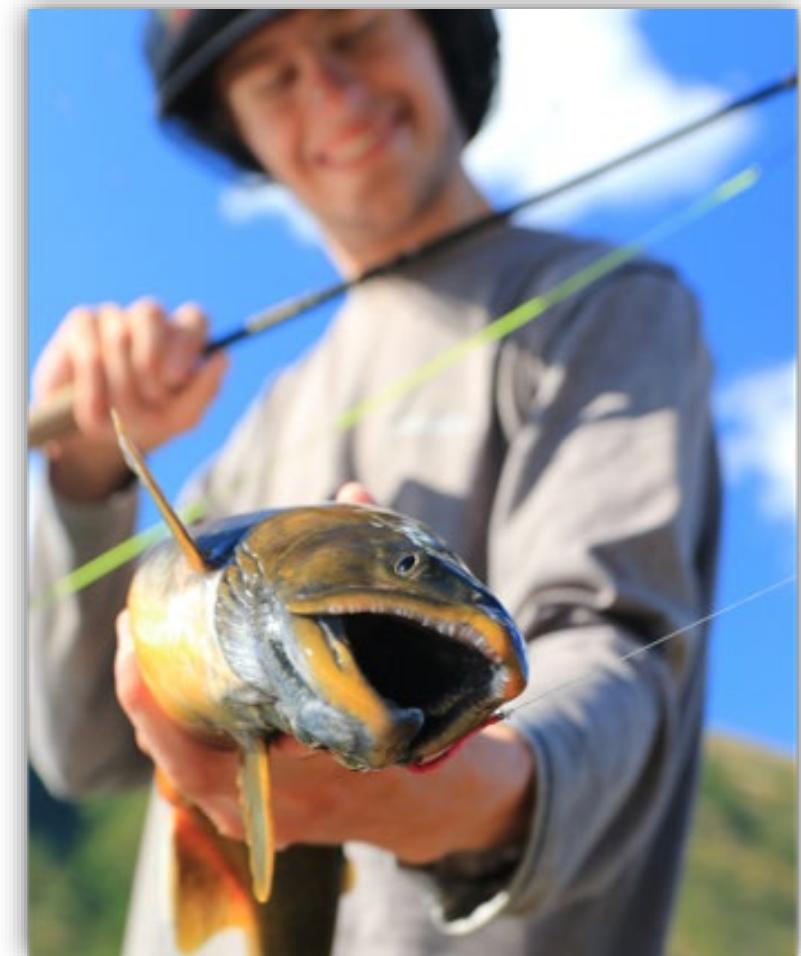


Photo credit: Steve Brockmann

# State Match: Fish and Game Fund



## Purpose and Eligible Projects

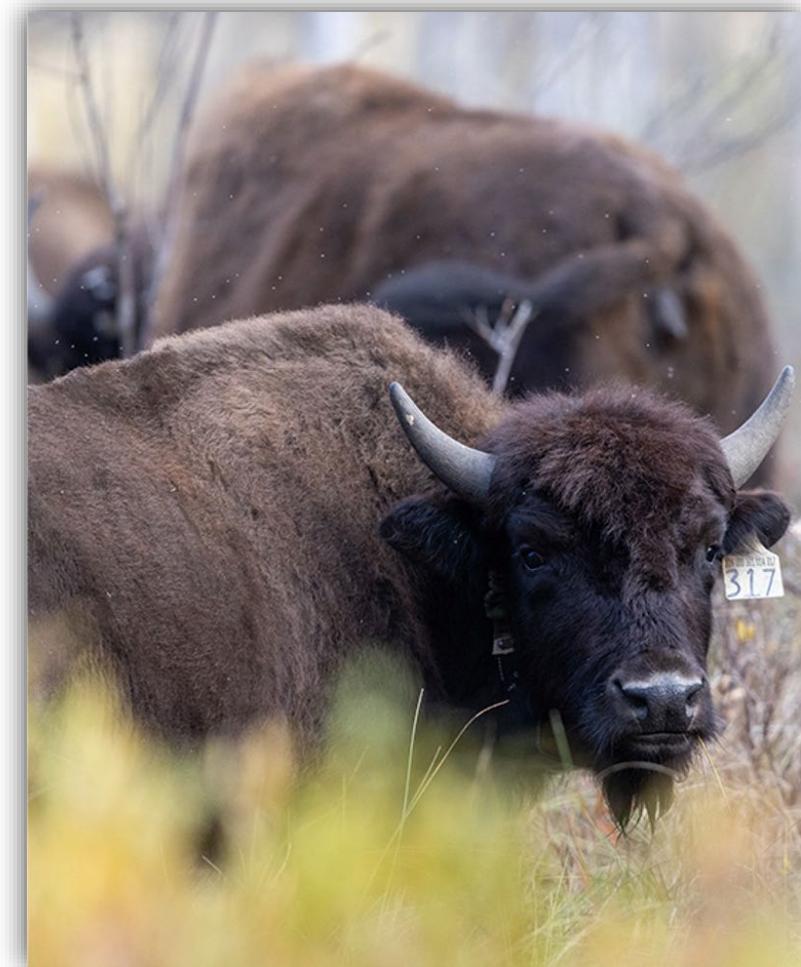
- Protection, propagation, investigation, and restoration of sport fish and game resources and the administration of the sport fish and game divisions of the department

## Source of Funds

- Sale of fishing, hunting and trapping licenses, tags and permits
- Settlement from a claim or loss caused by damage to fish and game resources
- Money received for fish and game purposes

## Diversion of Funds Prohibited

- State allowance for dedications required to participate in federal programs
- Diverting funds jeopardizes the State's ability to use both DJ and PR funds



# FY2026 Operating Budget Status Report

(all \$ in thousands)



Division/Component	Signification Change	FY2026 Governor's Request		FY2026 Enacted Budget	
		Amount (\$)	Fund Source	Amount (\$)	Fund Source
Commercial Fisheries/Statewide Fisheries Management	Restore Funding for Surveys and Assessments	\$716.5	Gen Fund	\$400.0	Gen Fund
Commercial Fisheries/Statewide Fisheries Management	Funding for State Vessel, Vehicle, and Aircraft Maintenance	\$450.0	Gen Fund	\$225.0	Gen Fund
Commercial Fisheries/Southeast Fisheries Management	Maintain Groundfish Project for Assessments and Management Obligations in Southeast	\$250.0 \$50.0	Gen Fund GF Match	\$170.0 \$30.0	Gen Fund GF Match
Commercial Fisheries/Central Fisheries Management	Statutory Designated Program Receipt Authority for Anchor Point In-Season Management Data Collection	N/A		Vetoed	
Sport Fish/Anchorage and Fairbanks Hatcheries	Enhancement Activities for Anchorage and Fairbanks Hatcheries	\$100.0 \$100.0	Fish/Game Fed Rcpts	N/A	



# FY2027 Operating Budget Changes

(all \$ in thousands)

Division/Component	Signification Change	Amount (\$)	Funding Source	Impact
Commercial Fisheries/Statewide Fisheries Management	Laboratory Facility Rent and Area	\$50.0	Fish/Game	Adjustment to cover facility changes in our Juneau labs: Pathology & Mark, Tag, and Age
Wildlife Conservation/Wildlife Conservation	Reduce Federal Authority to Align with Anticipated Expenditures	(\$3,000.0)	Fed Rcpts	Adjustment to align with need, no impact
Wildlife Conservation/Wildlife Conservation	Increase Authority for Marine Mammals Projects	\$300.0	CIP Rcpts	Adjustment to align with need, no impact
Sport Fish/Sport Fisheries	Federal and Statutory Designated Program Receipt Fund Change	(\$300.0) \$300.0	Fed Rcpts Stat Desig	Adjustment to align with need, no impact
Statewide Support Services/Administrative Services	Increase for Department Operational Expenditures	\$500.0	Stat Desig	Adjustment to align with need, no impact
Statewide Support Services/Administrative Services	Increase Authority to Address Personal Service Needs	\$115.0	CIP Rcpts	Adjustment to align with need, no impact
Statewide Support Services/Administrative Services	Delete Micro/Network Specialist 2	(\$35.8) (\$113.4)	Gen Fund I/A Rcpts	Deleting position due to efficiencies
Statewide Support Services/Commissioner's Office	Funds Received for Fisheries Disasters (FY27-FY29)	\$0.0	Stat Desig	Multi-year operating funding for federal disaster receipts from Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission (PSMFC)

# 7-Year Lookback on Accomplishments



## Management Actions

- Balanced conservation with opportunity, especially for subsistence users
- Improved productivity in Gulf of Alaska Chinook salmon stocks
- Targeted actions to reduce bycatch and intercept, support food security and cultural traditions, and maximize harvest opportunity

## Increasing Public Access

- Leveraged millions of federal dollars, along with state and in-kind match, to complete dozens of hunter and angler access projects statewide
- Made it easier and safer for Alaskans to get outdoors and access Alaska's abundant fish and wildlife resources

## Community Engagement

- Modernized communication and expanded education and outreach programs to improve access to information and build public trust
- Launched the Community Subsistence Information System, the ADF&G mobile, and increased online outreach while maintaining in-person services at offices across the Alaska

## Economic Return on Investment

- Continued operating during COVID-19
- Historic investments in fish and game management
- First and third most valuable commercial salmon seasons in Alaska's history

## Statehood Defense

- Used strong science and legal challenges to defend Alaska's management rights
- Ensured federal agencies had the best available science to make decisions

## Major Research Initiatives

- Expanded fishery assessment and research programs
- Launched the Alaska Marine Salmon Program and comprehensive Gulf of Alaska Chinook genetics project
- Initiated numerous research efforts for Western Alaska salmon
- Acquired new research vessel

# Department Contacts



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**Thank You!**

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