

Department of Fish and Game
FY26 Midyear Status Report

| Item No. | Appropriation / Allocation | Description | Amount / Fund Source | LFD Questions |
|--|--|--|--|---|
| 1 | Commercial Fisheries / Southeast Region Fisheries Management | Add Funding for Groundfish Project for Assessments and Management Obligations in Southeast (FY26-FY27) | Total: \$200.0 \$30.0 GF/Match (UGF) \$170.0 Gen Fund (UGF) IncT | The Governor requested \$300.0 [\$50.0 GF/Match, \$250.0 UGF] and the legislature funded this item at a reduced level. How has the agency managed with the partial funding of this item? Have all positions been retained? What services or expenditures, if any, have been reduced? If reductions were not made to this program, then where or what function was funding transferred from? |
| Agency Response | | | | |
| Activities were scaled back and focused on core functions, prioritizing critical assessments and fishery management obligations. A Fish and Wildlife Technician 4 position remains vacant, and the Yelloweye rockfish ROV survey and sablefish mark-recapture stock assessment survey have not been conducted due to budgetary constraints. Test Fish revenue has been used to supplement funding as available and support some essential tasks. | | | | |
| 2 | Commercial Fisheries / Central Region Fisheries Management | Add Full-time Boat Officer 3, Second in Command, for Research Vessel (R/V) Equinox | \$132.0 Gen Fund (UGF) 1 PFT Position Inc | Has this position been filled and what is the status of the R/V Equinox? |
| Agency Response | | | | |
| The R/V Equinox is in the final stages of the retrofit. The most recent time estimate for transit to Alaska is February 2026. The Boat Officer 3 is not needed while the vessel is in the shipyard, and recruiting and hiring for the position is anticipated by the end of March 2026. | | | | |
| 3 | Commercial Fisheries / Central Region Fisheries Management | Statutory Designated Program Receipt Authority for Anchor Point In-Season Management Data Collection | Net Zero | This funding was vetoed with the assertion that the agency has sufficient SDPR authority. Has the agency proceeded to use existing authority to contract for the Anchor Point In-Season Management Data Collection? |
| Agency Response | | | | |
| ADFG entered into a cooperative agreement with the Alaska Salmon Alliance (ASA) who conducted the Upper Cook Inlet Offshore Test Fishery project in 2025. ASA reimbursed the department for costs incurred, and all terms of the cooperative were successfully fulfilled. | | | | |

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| 4 | Commercial Fisheries / Statewide Fisheries Management | Add Funding for State Vessel, Vehicle, and Aircraft Maintenance | \$225.0 Gen Fund (UGF) Inc | This item was funded at a lower level than the Governor's request of \$450.0 UGF. What maintenance functions/services have been added with this funding, and what additional work would have occurred if this item had been funded at the requested level? Beyond that, what additional maintenance needs is the agency experiencing? |
| Agency Response | | | | |
| The R/V Kestrel is currently in dry dock undergoing routine maintenance that was delayed by a year. The R/V Medeia was slated for maintenance this winter, but has been delayed to complete the work on the R/V Kestrel. If any of the funding is available after the shipyard work for the Kestrel, it will be allocated to aircraft in the Westward Region or other priority needs. The Division of Commercial Fisheries has six large vessels, five aircraft, and numerous other pieces of equipment that must be maintained for safety. The estimated cost of the R/V Kestrel shipyard is \$1.1 million. | | | | |
| 5 | Commercial Fisheries / Statewide Fisheries Management | Restore Funding for Surveys and Assessments | \$400.0 Gen Fund (UGF) Inc | Which specific surveys and assessments were funded with this increment? Were any of those not performed in FY25? |
| Agency Response | | | | |
| The restored funding was used to replace unsustainable funding that was used to cover chargeback costs in FY2025, reinstate the Judd Lake project in Southcentral Region, and fund Kotzebue area salmon assessment projects in the AYK Region. The Judd Lake project was not performed in FY2025. | | | | |
| 6 | Commercial Fisheries / Statewide Fisheries Management | GA: Replace Genetics Conservation Laboratory Equipment | \$175.0 Fish/Game (Other) IncOTI | Was the agency able to purchase all necessary equipment with this one-time increment? What was purchased and what is the projected total cost? |
| Agency Response | | | | |
| The purchase is in progress with the Division of Commercial Fisheries who is seeking a quote from the vendor. The equipment purchase will be for a Standard Biotools Biomarker X9 genotyping platform. | | | | |

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| 7 | Commercial Fisheries / Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission | Contract with Bristol Bay Economic Development Corporation to Support a CFEC Employee Presence During Summer Season | \$60.0 Stat Desig (Other) Inc | Has the agency proceeded with this contract, and do you have any details to share about it? Please provide a brief explanation of which CFEC position took on this role, their location, and functions in this capacity. Does this detract at all from the local operations of the Commission? |
| Agency Response | | | | |
| <p>The Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC) will have a full-time temporary Commercial Fishing Permit Clerk IV (CFPC IV) staff member (part of the Licensing Section) working in Dillingham, Alaska, during the busy fishing season, May 1 – August 1. CFEC will be hiring locally in Dillingham for this position. The CFPC IV will have an office located in the Bristol Bay Economic Development Corporation (BBEDC). BBEDC will cover the following expenses for this position: Salary, Training, Travel, Office Supplies, and IT equipment.</p> <p>This is a win-win situation for CFEC, BBEDC, and the industry because the workload triples during the fishing season, overwhelming all. This is a much-needed service that has been requested numerous times over the years, so it will not detract from CFEC's local operations; instead, it will support CFEC's critical mission to serve the Bristol Bay salmon industry. The staff will be trained in the following functions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Review Permit/Vessel Applications for Renewals - Issue Permit Cards - Issues ADF&G Number for Commercial Vessel Licenses - Process Immediate Fishing - Process the Request for Emergency Transfer - Field Emergency Transfer Request - File Notice of Intent to Permanently Transfer - Scanning Documents for Digital Storage <p>Historically, CFEC had seasonal staff working in Bristol Bay during the busy fishing season, but this ended due to budget cuts. This time, BBEDC is offering to pay for everything needed to make this happen. However, the position will be entirely under CFEC's authority.</p> | | | | |
| 8 | Anchorage and Fairbanks Hatcheries / Anchorage and Fairbanks Hatcheries | Add Enhancement Activities to Anchorage and Fairbanks Hatcheries | n/a | The legislature denied a request for \$200.0 (\$100.0 Fed Rcpts, \$100.0 Fish and Game Fund authority) to support Sport Fisheries hatchery operations. What has been the effect of this reduced level of funding from the Governor's request? |
| Agency Response | | | | |
| <p>After a mid-year review the RDU currently has sufficient authority for projected operational costs.</p> | | | | |

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| 9 | Anchorage and Fairbanks Hatcheries / Anchorage and Fairbanks Hatcheries | Restore Federal Receipt Authority for Dingell-Johnson Funds and to Leverage In-Kind from Construction Costs as Match | Net Zero \$65.0 Fed Rcpts (Fed) (\$65.0) Gen Fund (UGF) FndChg | The legislature replaced UGF with Federal Receipt authority. How has the agency managed this fund change and have there been any effects on operations? |
| Agency Response | | | | |
| A higher than projected DJ apportionment allowed the Division of Sport Fish to absorb the \$65.0 and utilize facility construction costs as match with no effect on operations. The DJ apportionment fluctuates annually, and the division will not be able to continue to absorb decreases in UGF and increases in FED/DJ funds without impact to operations or programs. | | | | |
| 10 | Wildlife Conservation / Wildlife Conservation | Add State Vehicle and Aircraft Maintenance Project for Divisional Maintenance Needs | \$217.0 Fish/Game (Other) Inc | Was this level of funding adequate to meet the maintenance needs for the Wildlife Conservation Division's vehicles and aircraft? |
| Agency Response | | | | |
| Division of Wildlife Conservation funding is adequate for the 10 airplanes that the division manages and maintains for survey, inventory and research operations in Alaska. The estimated costs for engines are \$50.0-\$60.0 per airplane, and complete aircraft rebuilds are estimated at \$130.0. Engines and airframes are remanufactured or replaced on established schedules to ensure airworthiness and safety. Current funding adequately addresses the estimated costs. In the current fiscal year, the division has begun preliminary solicitations for two engine overhauls or replacements. | | | | |
| 11 | Various | Add a Wildlife Biologist 3 and Funding for Board Support due to Guide Concession Permit Program, SB 189 (Ch. 15 SLA 24) | n/a | The legislature omitted funding for a fiscal note associated with the Guide Concession Permit Program, yet other agencies received funding for the added responsibilities. How has the agency managed without that funding? |

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| | <p>Agency Response</p> <p>Division of Wildlife Conservation staff have addressed regulatory needs associated with establishing an initial guide concession area as a normal part of Alaska Board of Game activities. However, without additional funding to support a staff position dedicated to this program, the division will be unable to prioritize further work towards the guide concession program and will not be able to assist DNR with the program or manage ADF&G's ongoing responsibilities. Likewise, the Board Support Section was able to schedule a proposal for an initial guide concession area but is unlikely to be able to absorb increased meeting and travel costs as additional proposals are taken up in the future.</p> | | | |
| 12 | Wildlife Conservation / Hunter Education Public Shooting Ranges | Increase Funding and Authority for Hunter Education Programs | Total: \$500.0 \$375.0 Fed Rcpts (Fed) \$125.0 Fish/Game (Other) Inc | The legislature added funding for Hunter Education Programs, in addition to \$500.0 that was maintained for the same purpose in the Department of Education. How has the agency used these funds to expand existing services? |
| | <p>Agency Response</p> <p>ADF&G is using the additional funds for the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Purchasing additional training materials for the increased number of volunteer instructors and teachers getting trained as hunter education instructors in conjunction with the Department of Education. 2. Purchasing additional items for hunter education classes (i.e., hunter orange beanies and vests to encourage safety in the field), new .22 rifles for shooting proficiency, and .22 ammo for shooting proficiency. 3. Additional shipping costs of the hunter education field day supplies to remote locations. 4. Updates to the three ADF&G shooting range classrooms/buildings where over half of the certification courses are taught on an annual basis. Projects include replacing flooring, exterior re-siding/painting, and fire alarm system updates. <p>The funds given to the Department of Education for the Hunter Education Program has allowed for a very successful partnership. There are 12 school districts getting personnel (40+) trained as hunter education instructors, so they can offer hunter education to their students during the school day. The funds are helping to pay teacher salaries to attend the trainings, for substitutes to allow teachers to travel, and for students to take the online portion of hunter education free of charge.</p> | | | |
| 13 | Statewide Support Services / Commissioner's Office | GA: Federal Funds Received for Fisheries Disasters (FY2026-FY2028) | Net Zero MultiYr | Which fisheries disasters have seen receipts under this appropriation and in what amounts? What is the status of the disbursement for each and who is handling it? |

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| Agency Response There are two current projects using this appropriation unit: Copper River Chinook and Sockeye Genetic Stock Identification - \$1,733.9 & Copper River Sockeye Historic Genetic Stock Identification - \$1,793.0 Disbursement of federal fishery disaster funds is handled by the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission. | | | | |
| 14 | Statewide Support Services / Administrative Services | Delete Full-time Administrative Officer 1 Due to Departmental Efficiencies | n/a | The legislature denied the deletion of this position. What is the status of the position? |
| Agency Response This position was reclassified from an Administrative Officer 1 (range 17) to an Accounting Technician 2 (range 14) to focus on travel reconciliation and manage contracts that cross all divisions. Currently the position is vacant, pending a finalized FY2027 budget due to the proposed SSoA Travel/Accounts Payable structure change. | | | | |
| 15 | Various | Establish New Allocations for State Facilities Maintenance and Operations | Struct | What accounting mechanisms has the agency used to separately track facility maintenance and operations expenditures? Has the agency encountered any challenges with splitting out these amounts? |
| Agency Response ADF&G administrative staff have held meetings regarding these components, and the new processes will take time to develop correctly. The department uses function codes to track projects and location codes to track utility expenditures. | | | | |
| 16 | Habitat / Habitat | GA: Increase Authority for Federal Grant Opportunities | \$100.0 Fed Rcpts (Fed) Inc | Has the agency secured additional federal grants with this added receipt authority, and if so could you please list those grants/projects? |
| Agency Response The two funding opportunities that were the impetus of the request to increase federal receipt authority are (1) Aquatic Biomonitoring in Transboundary Rivers in Southeast Alaska under the EPA Transboundary Watershed Grants and (2) Fish Habitat Assessment on the Mendenhall River under the NOAA Fisheries Transformational Habitat Restoration and Coastal Resilience funding opportunity. The grants were awarded to the Habitat Section and work under both funding opportunities are proceeding as planned and is anticipated to be completed respectively by June 2028 and December 2027. | | | | |

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| 17 | Subsistence Research & Monitoring / State Subsistence Research | Contract with Chugach Regional Resource Commission for Subsistence Research Projects in Prince William Sound | \$50.0 Stat Desig (Other) Suppl | Please describe the status of this project. |
| Agency Response Chugach Regional Resources Commission (CRRC) staff attended the ADF&G Division of Subsistence field training on December 17 and 18 in Anchorage. Household survey administration will occur in February 2026. CRRC staff will be paired with ADF&G researchers to complete survey work. | | | | |
| 18 | Subsistence Research & Monitoring / State Subsistence Research | GA: Add Authority for Multiple North Pacific Research Board Projects | \$100.0 Stat Desig (Other) Inc | Please briefly list these projects, their purpose, and their status. |
| Agency Response The purpose of this project is to addresses an urgent fisheries management need by providing updated data necessary for consideration of existing regulatory structures, and ultimately, the provision of reasonable opportunity for subsistence harvesting of salmon. This will be accomplished through comprehensive household harvest surveys, harvest area mapping, ethnographic interviews, and participant observation. The ADF&G Division of Subsistence will serve as the technical lead and principal investigator, and research will rely on close collaboration with the Native Village of Eyak (NVE) and CRRC. Status: ADF&G, NVE, and CRRC hosted a community scoping meeting at the Prince William Sound Science Center (Cordova) in September 2025. Field staff training occurred in December 2025. Local research assistant training is scheduled in Cordova for February 3, and household surveys will begin on February 4, 2026. | | | | |

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| 19 | Various | FY26 Salary Adjustments | Total: \$9,355.8 \$2,929.6 Fed Rcpts (Fed) \$56.1 GF/Match (UGF) \$3,100.5 Gen Fund (UGF) \$64.8 GF/Prgm (DGF) \$623.7 I/A Rcpts (Other) \$13.4 EVOS Civil (Other) \$1,654.5 Fish/Game (Other) \$6.9 IA/OIL HAZ (Other) \$265.5 CIP Rcpts (Other) \$244.1 Stat Desig (Other) \$107.7 Test Fish (DGF) \$289.0 CFEC Rcpts (DGF) | As noted in the LFD Enacted Book writeup on this item, the use of these fund sources is likely to require the agency to redirect existing funds away from current projects and activities. Please describe any impacts to existing programs. Please also attach updated projections for Dingell-Johnson receipts and expenditures, for Pittman-Robertson funds, and an updated projection for the Fish and Game Fund. For the Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC), please provide an updated projection for the CFEC Fund. |
| Agency Response Sport Fish: A higher than projected DJ apportionment and the maintenance of sustainable FG and DJ fund balances allowed the Division of Sport Fish (DSF) to absorb the FY2026 salary adjustments with no impacts to existing programs. The DJ apportionment fluctuates annually and DSF will not be able to continue to absorb decreases in UGF and increases in FED/DJ funds without impact to operations or programs. The upcoming DJ apportionment is anticipated anticipated to be between \$21.6 million and \$22.06 million based on preliminary apportionment with carryforward receipts at \$5.8 million for 2025 based on the apportionment for FFY2025. Wildlife: There was no impact to the Division of Wildlife Conservation (DWC). There was excess access federal authority and vacancies to account for the use of PR funding for salary adjustments. Estimated receipts for FY2026 is \$37.9 million for PR with carryforward receipts at \$30.1 million from FY2025. Total available funding estimated is \$68 million for FY2027. Attachments will come at a later date due to planned personal leave. | | | | |