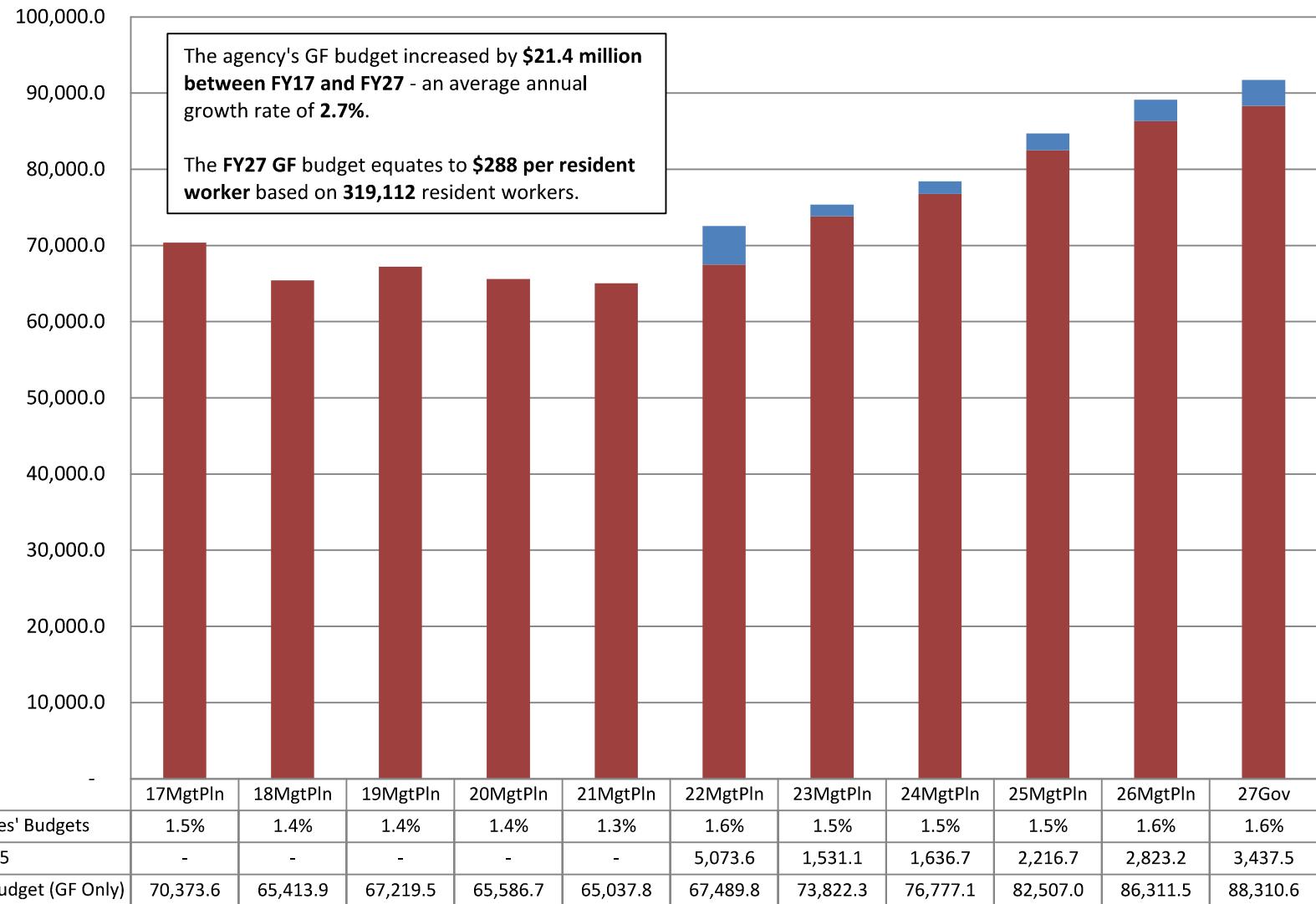


Department of Fish & Game Total General Fund Budget (\$ Thousands)



The Wildlife Conservation Division's budget is 5% GF. It is primarily funded with Federal receipts and Fish and Game funds (Other).

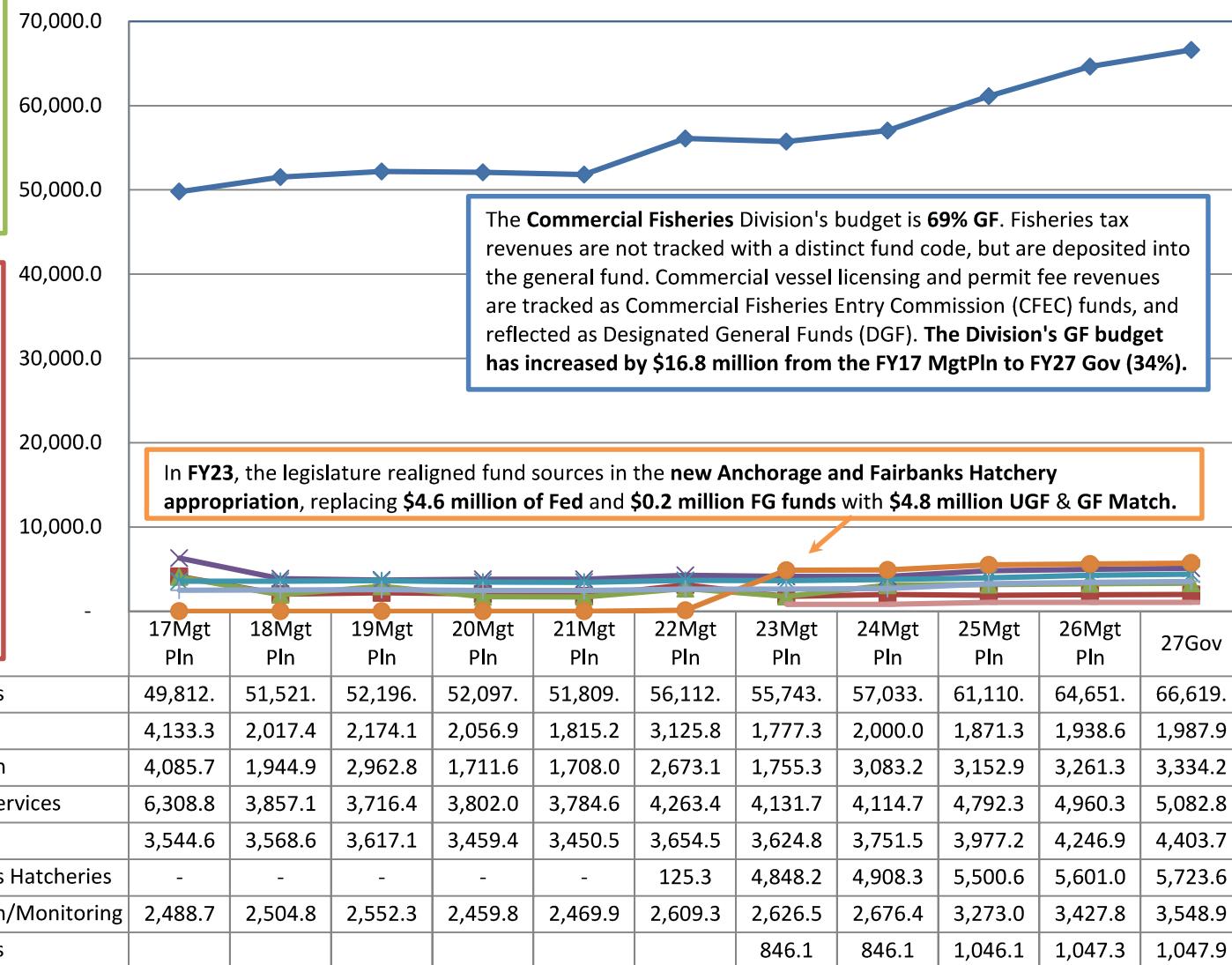
Total GF funding has decreased by \$0.8 million (-18%) from the FY17 MgtPln to FY27 Gov, while the Division's budget (all fund sources) has increased by \$25.2 million (53%).

The Sport Fish Division's budget is 4% GF. It is primarily funded with Federal receipts and Fish and Game funds (Other).

Total GF funding has decreased by \$2.1 million (-52%) from the FY17 MgtPln to FY27 Gov, while the Division's budget (all fund sources) has increased by \$6.5 million (15%).

Appropriations within the Department of Fish & Game

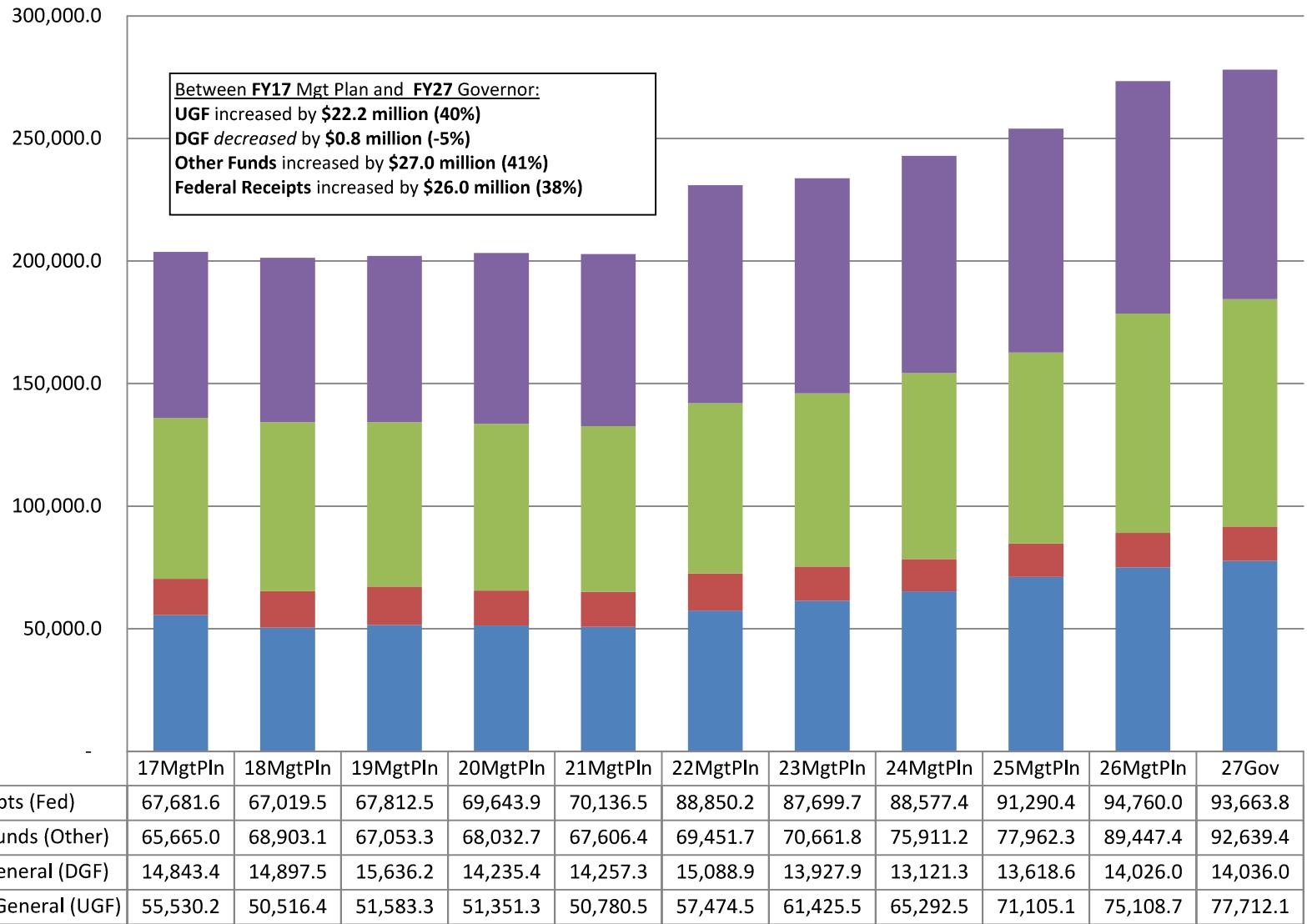
(GF Only)
(\$ Thousands)



Department of Fish & Game

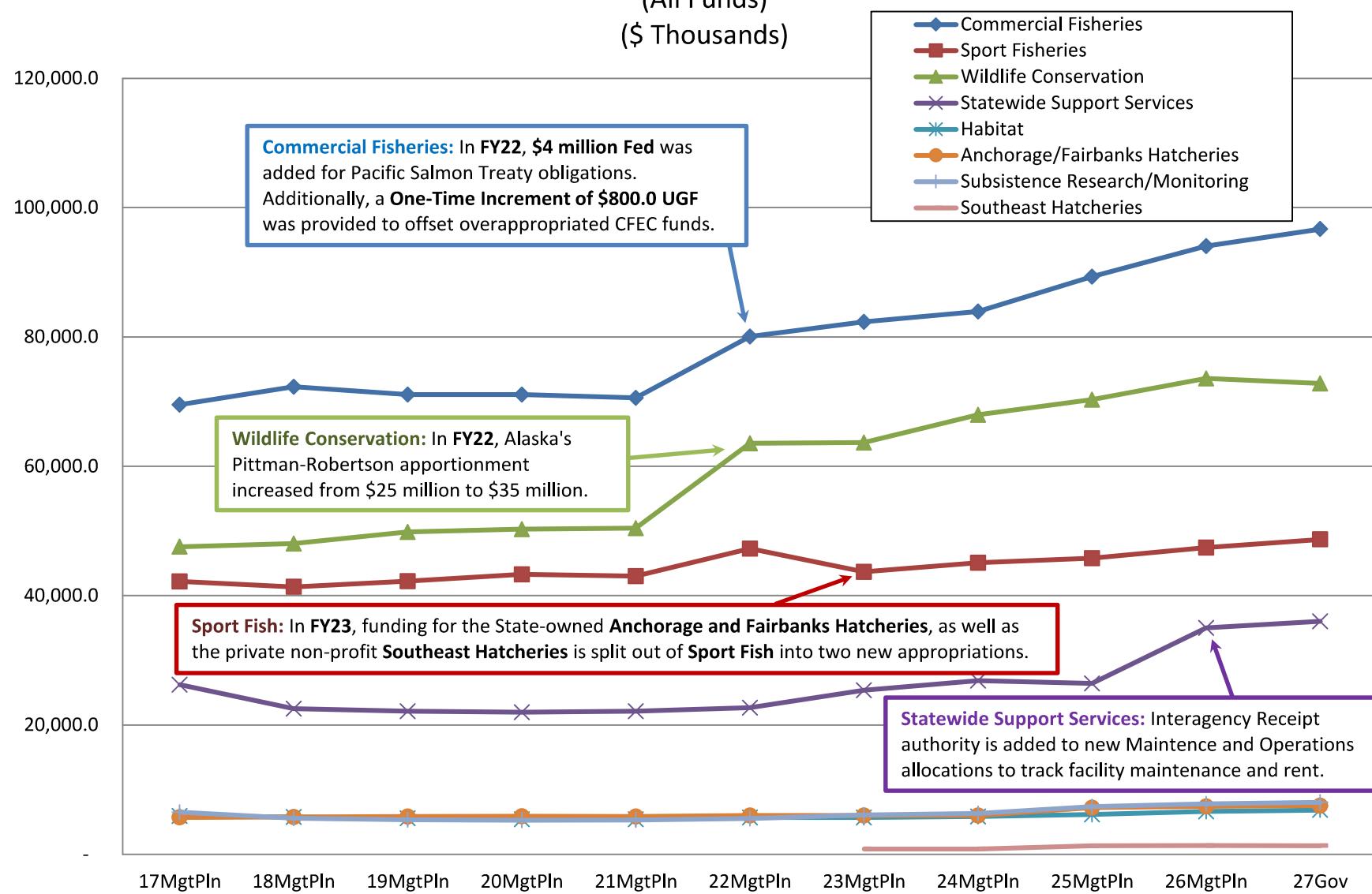
Total Funding Comparison by Fund Group

(\$ Thousands)



Appropriations within the Department of Fish & Game

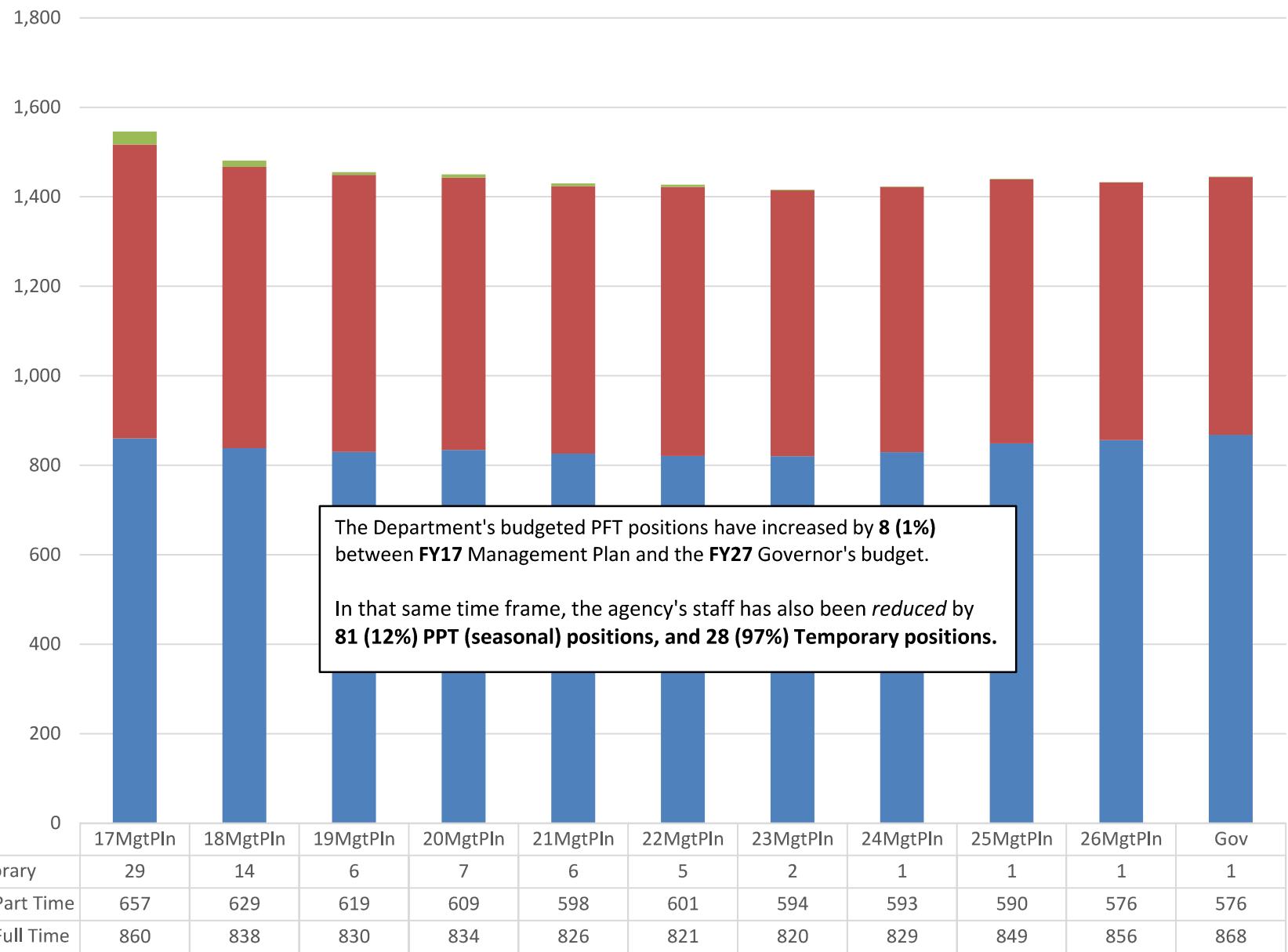
(All Funds)
(\$ Thousands)



Department of Fish & Game Budget by Line Item



Budgeted Positions in the Department of Fish & Game



2026 Legislature - Operating Budget
Transaction Compare - FY27 Governor Structure
Between AdjBase and Gov

Numbers and Language
Differences
Agencies: F&G

Agency: Department of Fish and Game

	Column	Trans Type	Total Expenditure	Personal Services	Travel	Services	Commodities	Capital Outlay	Grants	Misc	PFT	PPT	TMP
Commercial Fisheries													
Southeast Region Fisheries Management													
Information Technology Classification Study Implementation	Gov	Inc	100.5	100.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Add authority to reflect job classification changes for information technology positions associated with the classification study conducted by the Department of Administration: \$100.5													
1002 Fed Rcpts (Fed)	65.0												
1004 Gen Fund (UGF)	35.5												
* Allocation Difference *			100.5	100.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Central Region Fisheries Management													
Information Technology Classification Study Implementation	Gov	Inc	19.1	19.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Add authority to reflect job classification changes for information technology positions associated with the classification study conducted by the Department of Administration: \$19.1													
1004 Gen Fund (UGF)	19.1												
* Allocation Difference *			19.1	19.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
AYK Region Fisheries Management													
LFD Adjust: To Match Governor's Bill - Reverse	Gov	MisAdj	-90.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-90.0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Add Sonar Unit for AYK Region - Do Not Accept													
The Governor's budget included the Adjusted Base reversal of one-time funding for a sonar unit that the Governor had requested in FY26 but the legislature did not fund. To accept this item would equate to a base decrement to the agency.													
1004 Gen Fund (UGF)	-90.0												
Information Technology Classification Study Implementation	Gov	Inc	58.0	58.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Add authority to reflect job classification changes for information technology positions associated with the classification study conducted by the Department of Administration: \$58.0													
1004 Gen Fund (UGF)	58.0												
* Allocation Difference *			-32.0	58.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-90.0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Westward Region Fisheries Management													
Information Technology Classification Study Implementation	Gov	Inc	54.1	54.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Add authority to reflect job classification changes for information technology positions associated with the classification study conducted by the Department of Administration: \$54.1													
1004 Gen Fund (UGF)	54.1												
* Allocation Difference *			54.1	54.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Statewide Fisheries Management													
Add Authority for Pathology Lab Facility Rent	Gov	Inc	50.0	0.0	0.0	50.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Cost Increase and Expanded Space for Mark Tag and Age Lab, Both in Juneau													
The two department laboratories in Juneau need additional authority to continue operating in their current buildings.													

2026 Legislature - Operating Budget
Transaction Compare - FY27 Governor Structure
Between AdjBase and Gov

Numbers and Language
Differences
Agencies: F&G

Agency: Department of Fish and Game

	Column	Trans Type	Total Expenditure	Personal Services	Travel	Services	Commodities	Capital Outlay	Grants	Misc	PFT	PPT	TMP
Commercial Fisheries (continued)													
Statewide Fisheries Management (continued)													
Add Authority for Pathology Lab Facility Rent													
Cost Increase and Expanded Space for Mark Tag and Age Lab, Both in Juneau (continued)													
The Mark Tag and Age Lab needs more space to complete analyses and store samples that require indefinite archiving. Part of this request would be used to secure additional space in their current facility, which is owned by the University of Alaska. The remaining funding would be used to pay increased rent costs for the Pathology Lab, which operates from a building owned by the City and Borough of Juneau.													
1024 Fish/Game (Other)	50.0												
Information Technology Classification Study Implementation		Gov	Inc	173.6	173.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	0
Add authority to reflect job classification changes for information technology positions associated with the classification study conducted by the Department of Administration: \$173.6													
1002 Fed Rcpts (Fed)	10.5												
1004 Gen Fund (UGF)	94.4												
1061 CIP Rcpts (Other)	2.8												
1108 Stat Desig (Other)	17.3												
1201 CFEC Rcpts (DGF)	48.6												
* Allocation Difference *			223.6	173.6	0.0	50.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	0
* * Appropriation Difference * *			365.3	405.3	0.0	50.0	0.0	-90.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	0
Sport Fisheries													
Sport Fisheries													
Information Technology Classification Study Implementation		Gov	Inc	74.6	74.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	0
Add authority to reflect job classification changes for information technology positions associated with the classification study conducted by the Department of Administration: \$74.6													
1002 Fed Rcpts (Fed)	46.7												
1024 Fish/Game (Other)	27.9												
Receipt Authority for National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission Grant Awards		Gov	FndChg	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	0
This fund swap will better reflect the authority needed in fiscal year 2027, based on new award opportunities from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission. This change will not affect services or remove any federally funded projects.													
1002 Fed Rcpts (Fed)	-300.0												
1108 Stat Desig (Other)	300.0												
* Allocation Difference *			74.6	74.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	0
* * Appropriation Difference * *			74.6	74.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	0

Wildlife Conservation

2026 Legislature - Operating Budget
Transaction Compare - FY27 Governor Structure
Between AdjBase and Gov

Numbers and Language
Differences
Agencies: F&G

Agency: Department of Fish and Game

	Column	Trans Type	Total Expenditure	Personal Services	Travel	Services	Commodities	Capital Outlay	Grants	Misc	PFT	PPT	TMP
Wildlife Conservation (continued)													
Wildlife Conservation													
Increase Authority for Personal Services	Gov	Inc	300.0	300.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	0
Expenditures Related to Marine Mammal and Endangered Species Capital Projects													
This increment will address the personal service expenditures that must post to capital appropriations for endangered species and marine mammals projects. This change will reduce fiscal year-end tasks administrative staff need to complete.													
1061 CIP Rpts (Other)	300.0												
Information Technology Classification Study Implementation	Gov	Inc	178.0	178.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	0
Add authority to reflect job classification changes for information technology positions associated with the classification study conducted by the Department of Administration: \$178.0													
1002 Fed Rpts (Fed)	123.2												
1004 Gen Fund (UGF)	6.1												
1024 Fish/Game (Other)	48.7												
Reduce Excess Federal Receipt Authority due to Declining Pittman-Robertson Apportionments	Gov	Dec	-3,000.0	0.0	0.0	-3,000.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	0
This decrement will more accurately align authority with projected expenditures required for regular operations. The Pittman-Robertson (PR) apportionments have been steadily declining since Federal Fiscal Year 2024. No changes in services or elimination of PR funded projects will result from this reduction.													
1002 Fed Rpts (Fed)	-3,000.0												
* Allocation Difference *			-2,522.0	478.0	0.0	-3,000.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
** Appropriation Difference **			-2,522.0	478.0	0.0	-3,000.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Statewide Support Services													
Commissioner's Office													
L Funds Received for Fisheries Disasters (FY27-FY29)	Gov	MultiYr	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	0
Sec. XX. DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME.													
Statutory designated program receipts received for fisheries disasters during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2027, estimated to be \$0, are appropriated to the Department of Fish and Game for fisheries disaster relief for the fiscal years ending June 30, 2027, June 30, 2028, and June 30, 2029.													
1108 Stat Desig (Other)	0.0												
* Allocation Difference *			0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0
Administrative Services													
Add CIP Authority for Existing Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Program Coordinator Position	Gov	Inc	115.0	115.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	0
The Exxon Valdez Oil Spill (EVOS) Program Coordinator salary is paid for using capital project funding; the division does not have sufficient capital improvement project receipts authority to cover the total cost of the position. This increase allows the division to spend the EVOS funds more efficiently.													
1061 CIP Rpts (Other)	115.0												

2026 Legislature - Operating Budget
Transaction Compare - FY27 Governor Structure
Between AdjBase and Gov

Numbers and Language
Differences
Agencies: F&G

Agency: Department of Fish and Game

	Column	Trans Type	Total Expenditure	Personal Services	Travel	Services	Commodities	Capital Outlay	Grants	Misc	PFT	PPT	TMP
Statewide Support Services (continued)													
Administrative Services (continued)													
Add Statutory Designated Program Receipt	Gov	Inc	500.0	0.0	0.0	500.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	0
Authority for Agency Indirect Expenditures and Website ADA Compliance Efforts													
The division does not have sufficient authority to spend the indirect revenue received from non-federal agreements.													
This increase covers rising core services expenditures and contributes to department-wide operating costs, including ensuring the division's public facing website is compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act.													
1108 Stat Desig (Other) 500.0													
Information Technology Classification Study Implementation	Gov	Inc	106.6	106.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0	0
Add authority to reflect job classification changes for information technology positions associated with the classification study conducted by the Department of Administration: \$106.6													
1004 Gen Fund (UGF) 25.6													
1007 I/A Rcpts (Other) 81.0													
Delete Full-Time Micro/Network Specialist 2 Position Located in Juneau	Gov	Dec	-149.2	-149.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-1	0
Delete full-time Micro/Network Specialist 2 (110311), range 20 located in Juneau.													
1004 Gen Fund (UGF) -35.8													
1007 I/A Rcpts (Other) -113.4													
* Allocation Difference *			572.4	72.4	0.0	500.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-1	0	0
** Appropriation Difference **			572.4	72.4	0.0	500.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	-1	0	0
*** Agency Difference ***			-1,509.7	1,030.3	0.0	-2,450.0	0.0	-90.0	0.0	0.0	-1	0	0
**** All Agencies Difference ****			-1,509.7	1,030.3	0.0	-2,450.0	0.0	-90.0	0.0	0.0	-1	0	0

Column Definitions

AdjBase (FY27 Adjusted Base) - FY26 Management Plan less One-Time Items (OTIs), plus FY27 Position Adjustments (PosAdjs), Transfers In/Out of allocations (TrIns and TrOuts), Line Item Transfers (LITs), Temporary Increments (IncTs) initiated in prior years, adjustments to formula programs in language, and additions for statewide items such as Salary Adjustments (SalAdjs). The Adjusted Base is the base to which the Governor's and the legislature's Increments (Incs), Decrements (Decs), and Fund Changes (FndChg) are added.

Gov (FY27 Gov (12/11)) - Includes FY27 Adjusted Base plus the Governor's operating budget requests submitted on December 11, 2025.

Department of Fish and Game

Mission

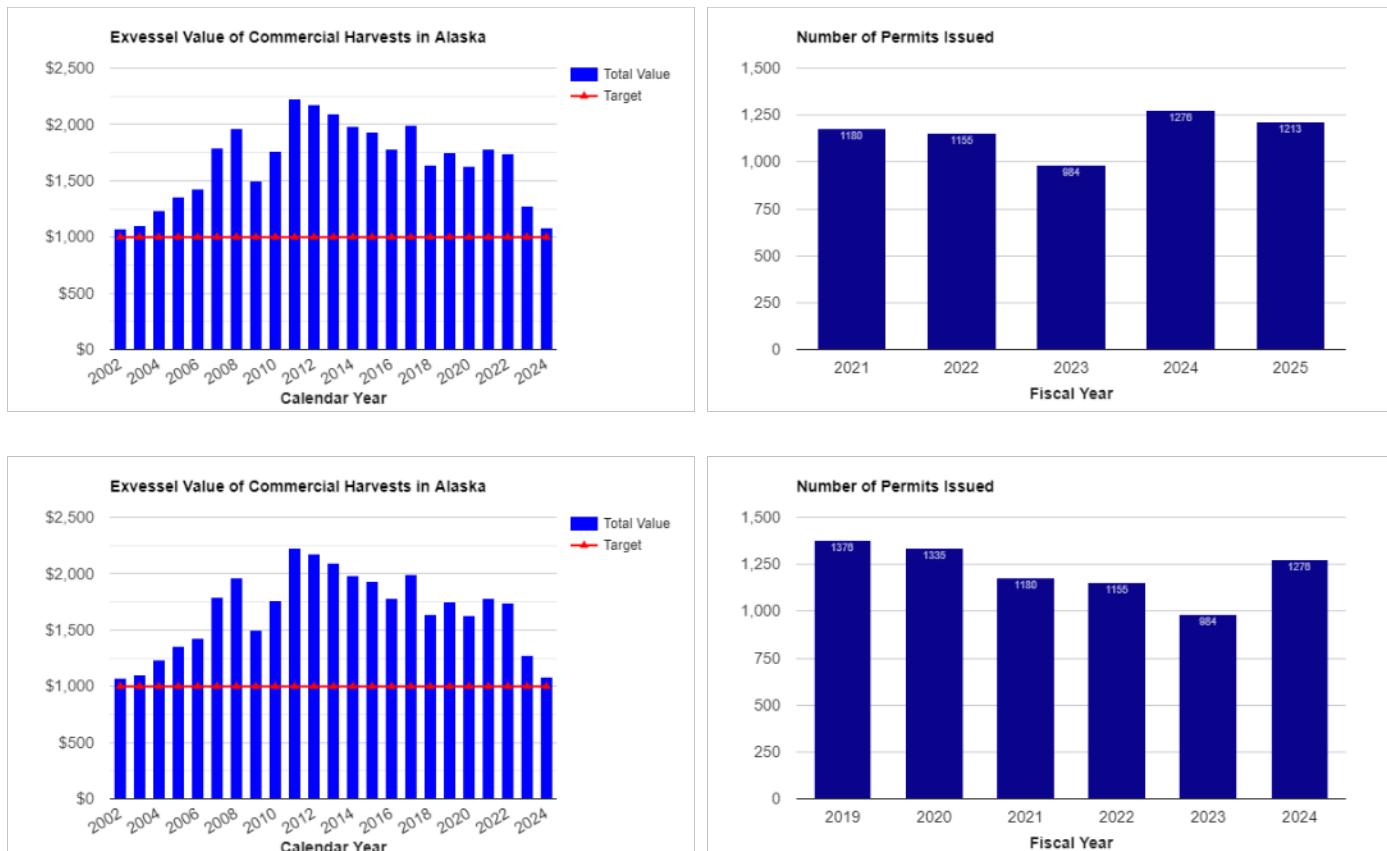
To protect, maintain, and improve the fish, game, and aquatic plant resources of the state, and manage their use and development in the best interest of the economy and the well-being of the people of the state, consistent with the sustained yield principle. Alaska Constitution Article 8, Sec. 4; Alaska Statute (AS) 16.05.020(2)

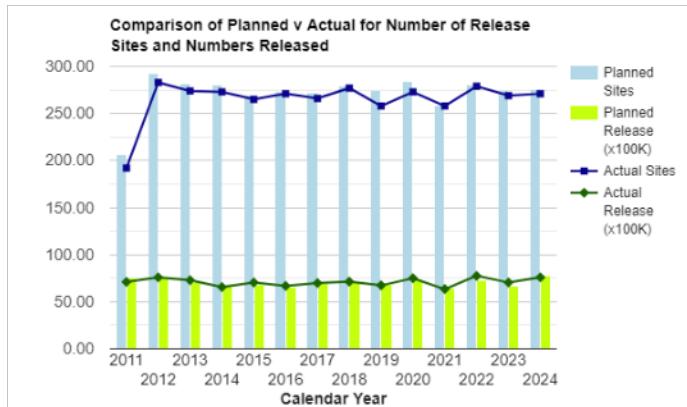
Core Services (in priority order)	UGF	DGF	Other	Fed	Total	PFT	PPT	NP	% GF
1 Management	34,483.5	5,480.7	44,581.0	50,500.3	135,045.5	437.9	262.4	1.0	44.8%
2 Stock Assessment and Research	29,348.8	8,138.8	24,436.3	22,987.9	84,911.9	256.8	233.1	0.0	42.1%
3 Customer Service and Public Involvement	11,276.4	406.5	20,430.1	21,271.8	53,384.8	161.3	80.5	0.0	13.1%
FY2026 Management Plan	75,108.7	14,026.0	89,447.4	94,760.0	273,342.1	856.0	576.0	1.0	

Measures by Core Service

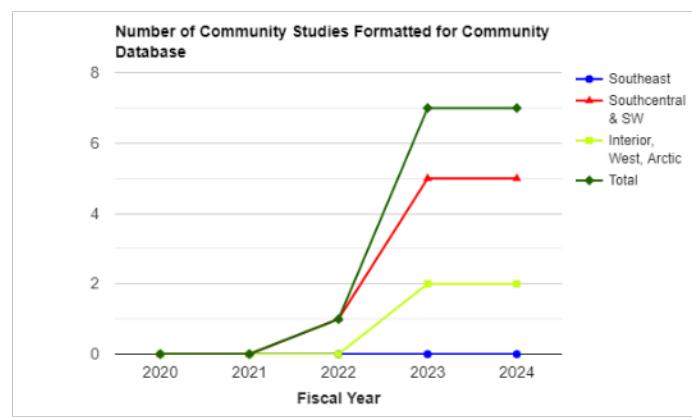
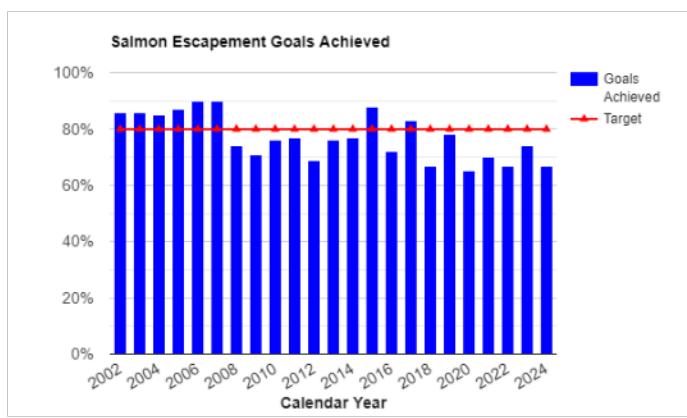
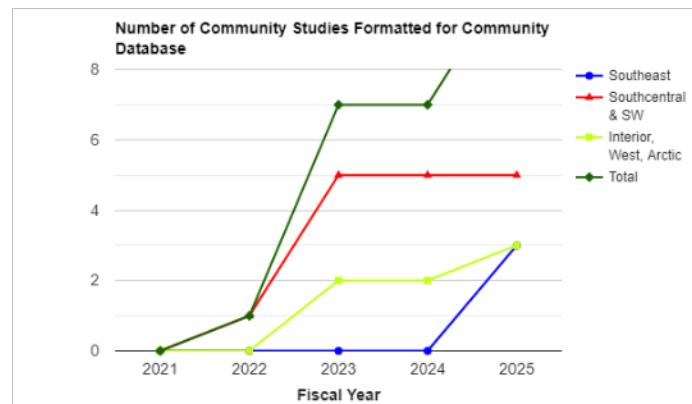
(Additional performance information is available on the web at <https://omb.alaska.gov/results>.)

1. Management



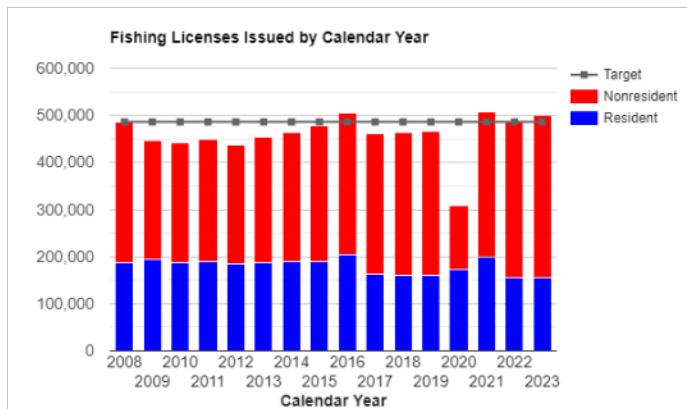


2. Stock Assessment and Research



3. Customer Service and Public Involvement





Major Department Accomplishments in 2025

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) continued to provide hunting, fishing, and trapping opportunities to Alaskans and nonresidents – guided by its constitutional and statutory mandates to manage Alaska's fish and wildlife resources for sustained yield and in the interest of the economy and wellbeing of the people of the State.

The ADF&G's approach to management of Alaska's fish and wildlife resources supports a substantial return on investment to State and local economies, turning a \$270 million-dollar budgetary investment that includes \$75 million in general funds into a return of over \$15 billion dollars. These resources fuel one of the nation's most valuable commercial fishing industries; are a cornerstone of Alaska's booming tourism industry; provide world class hunting, sport fishing, and wildlife viewing opportunities; and sustain an unequaled subsistence way of life.

The necessary research, management, and public services structures were in place to conduct fisheries and hunts across Alaska. Commercial fisheries, guided by sustained yield principles supported jobs and local economies. Sport and personal use fisheries continued to operate, allowing anglers to fill their freezers, feed their families, and get outside. Subsistence fisheries and hunts occurred, allowing harvest opportunities to feed and support communities while passing on traditional and cultural practices vital to many Alaskans. Hunts opened throughout the State providing opportunities for Alaskans and nonresidents.

Resource Divisions	Annual Average Contribution to Alaska's Economy
Commercial Fisheries	\$6.3 billion
Sport Fishing	\$2.5 billion
Wildlife	\$6.0 billion
Subsistence	\$0.3 billion
Total	\$15.1 billion

Defending Against Federal Erosion of State Management Authority

The ADF&G continued work to uphold Alaska's rights granted at statehood and ensure federal compliance with laws such as the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA), the Endangered Species Act (ESA), and the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA), thereby safeguarding State management of fish and wildlife resources. Federal actions often threaten Alaska's management authority and resource development, imposing restrictive policies that conflict with federal and State laws and disregard the State's management rights. The ADF&G's cost-effective programs bring expertise and coordination to conserve fish and wildlife while avoiding unnecessary regulation.

Key accomplishments include:

- Informed a 12-month status review on Gulf of Alaska Chinook salmon initiated by the National Marine Fisheries Service to ensure it had the best available science to inform their decision to list or not list all or a portion of these stocks under the ESA.
- Avoided an ESA listing for Suckley's cuckoo bumblebee in Alaska and provided information to reduce the potential of other unnecessary ESA listings for northern bog lemming, Chinook salmon, Pacific walrus, and more.

- Worked with the Department of Law to successfully overturn the expansive ESA Critical Habitat designations for ringed seals and bearded seals that placed unnecessary regulations across an area larger than Texas.
- Worked with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to abandon its proposed Biological Integrity, Diversity, and Environmental Health (BIDEH) rule that would have undermined State management.
- Defended the ANILCA's "No More Clause" by commenting on the proposed designation of the Alaska Long Trail that would create a new Conservation System Unit under the ANILCA.

Legal Battles Over the State's Right to Manage

The State remains actively engaged in lawsuits to protect Alaska's right to manage its fish and wildlife resources:

- Defended the State's authority to manage in navigable waterways, recently filing a petition asking the United States Supreme Court to reconsider the ruling from the 9th Circuit United States Court of Appeals that conflicts with both the plain text of ANILCA and clear Supreme Court precedent.
- Opposed the Federal Subsistence Board's (FSB) ability to delegate its decision-making authority to outside bodies. While the appeal is now closed, the question remains unanswered.
- Challenged the Federal government's ability to open hunts, thereby supplanting State management on federal lands. The 9th Circuit United States Court of Appeals concluded that the FSB has authority to open **emergency** hunts on federal lands even when the hunting season is closed for conservation, directly conflicting with State management actions and jeopardizing its ability to sustainably manage wildlife.
- Successfully defended the ADF&G Commissioner's authority to repeal outdated regulations banning jet ski use in Kachemak Bay.
- Responded to the Metlakatla Indian Community's lawsuit asserting commercial fishing rights without limited entry permits; the State filed for summary judgment, and several Southeast Alaska tribes moved to dismiss the case.
- Won a lawsuit defending ADF&G's use of emergency regulations to allow intensive management activities to continue.

Managing for Sustainability and Subsistence Priority

The ADF&G's top priorities remain sustainability of Alaska's fish and wildlife resources and providing for subsistence harvest opportunities. When conservation measures are necessary, subsistence is the last to be impacted. In times of abundance, subsistence harvests operate with few or no restrictions, while others are managed closely based on in-season data. This year, the ADF&G:

- Carefully managed low-return salmon stocks vital to subsistence users.
- Prioritized research on declining salmon populations and maintained engagement with subsistence communities.
- Adopted regulations for cultural education fishing permits, providing limited salmon harvest in the Yukon and allowing for ceremonial use and transmission of cultural knowledge.
- Responded to Typhoon Halong by coordinating with impacted villages to open emergency hunts in the region where harvestable surplus exists, supporting displaced families and enhancing food security.

Subsistence Research and Monitoring

The ADF&G worked on 44 projects and published 12 reports related to subsistence research and monitoring to support informed management decisions. Efforts focused on incorporating information on customary and traditional uses into management plans and contributing to research on declining populations, emphasizing the implications to subsistence users. A new Community Subsistence Information System data hub was launched, featuring interactive tools and visual depictions. Artificial Intelligence (AI)-based tools were also implemented to improve efficiency of data analysis.

Sustaining Fishing Opportunities Statewide

The ADF&G conducted stock (weirs, counting towers, sonar, aerial surveys) and fishery (statewide marine and freshwater surveys and creel census) assessment projects to gather in-season data that informed management decisions. Area managers issued emergency orders to restrict or liberalize fisheries and kept the public informed through advisory announcements, press releases, and social media. With many wild Chinook fisheries restricted or closed in 2025, hatchery-supported Chinook fisheries provided important harvest opportunities. Biologists from the Commercial and Sport Fish divisions also developed stock assessment models to improve sustainable management of rockfish species.

Food Security for Alaskans

Alaskans harvest an average of 10,000 Sitka black-tailed deer, 7,000 moose, and 6,600 caribou annually, providing approximately 5.7 million pounds of wild meat for local tables. To increase food security, the ADF&G expanded its

transplant program, translocating 19 Sitka black-tailed deer to the Southern Kenai Peninsula and releasing wood bison in Minto State Game Refuge with additional releases planned for next year. Cooperatively with members of the public, Fish and Game Advisory Committees, and the Alaska Board of Game, the ADF&G also supported several proposals to provide additional resident-only hunting opportunities for species identified as high use for human consumption.

Statewide Commercial Salmon Harvest, Fishery Value, and Stock Status

Alaska harvested 195 million salmon in 2025—an 88 percent increase from 2024—totaling approximately 793 million pounds, the 12th highest on record by number of fish. The harvest was valued at \$541 million, a 78 percent increase from the previous year, though still the 13th lowest value since 1975 when adjusted for inflation. While prices per pound improved compared to 2024, permit holder participation declined slightly, and global market conditions continued to influence pricing and participation trends.

Implementation of the Pacific Salmon Treaty

This year marked the seventh year of implementing the renegotiated Pacific Salmon Treaty, which is more data-intensive than the previous agreement. Multiple projects were carried out region-wide to collect the stock and fishery assessment data required to implement the Treaty. The ADF&G managed the Northern Boundary area and Transboundary River fisheries in compliance with the Treaty's provisions, avoiding overages and successfully reducing harvest of Chinook stocks. The Alaska delegation to the Pacific Salmon Commission began preparations to update the Northern Boundary, Transboundary River, and Chinook chapters of the Treaty as the current agreement expires December 31, 2028.

Alaska Marine Salmon Program / Salmon Ocean Ecology Program

This program leads Alaska's research on the ocean life of salmon based on information from four regional marine salmon surveys across Alaska and through collaborations with state, federal, and international ocean research efforts. It serves as a primary source for data, information, and guidance on a wide variety of marine salmon issues including competition at sea, marine heatwaves, and marine ecosystem changes and regularly communicates with stakeholders, regulatory bodies, media, and the public.

- Completed the first annual Western Gulf of Alaska juvenile salmon survey and the third annual Southern Bering Sea juvenile salmon survey.
- In combination with the long-running surveys in the Northern Bering Sea and Southeast Alaska, this is the first year that a comprehensive assessment was available for juvenile salmon in marine waters from all salmon-producing regions of the State.
- Completed retrofitting the R/V Equinox, which will be used to support this program.

Gulf of Alaska Chinook Salmon Genetic Stock Identification Research

Across Alaska, Chinook salmon runs are decreasing, necessitating conservative management of fisheries. For more than a decade, the Gulf of Alaska Chinook salmon fisheries have been severely restricted or closed to achieve escapement goals. This year, the ADF&G began a five-year comprehensive effort to sample, assess, analyze, and report the stock composition of all significant marine harvests of Chinook salmon in the Gulf of Alaska. This will provide a gulf-wide understanding of fisheries harvests, stock compositions, Chinook productivity, marine distributions, and potential impacts on Alaskans. The Divisions of Commercial Fisheries and Sport Fish started coordinating and planning for this new program, and initial assessment projects will begin in the spring/summer of 2026.

Boards of Fisheries and Game: Open Regulatory Process and Meaningful Public Engagement

The boards held a combined 39 meeting days and acted on 511 regulatory proposals. The boards received over 5,400 written public comments and heard 535 public testimonies, including 60 from Advisory Committees. The Board of Fisheries focused on finfish and shellfish regulations in select management areas: Prince William Sound and Upper Copper/Upper Susitna Rivers, Southeast and Yakutat, and all other shellfish statewide. The Board of Game addressed statewide provisions, hunting and trapping regulations for the Central and Southwest regions and held a special meeting to adopt regulations allowing for intensive management of wolves and bears to aid the recovery of the Mulchatna caribou herd, which is a vital subsistence resource.

Habitat Permitting and Responsible Development

The ADF&G issued 1,101 Fish Habitat Permits and 98 Special Area Permits guided by site-specific factors and the best available science to allow responsible development and proper conservation of fish habitat and fish passage. The average review time was 7.8 days for Fish Habitat Permits and 13.5 days for Special Area Permits. Title 16 habitat and special areas permitting play an important role in resource development, transportation infrastructure, and energy projects across the state.

Increasing Public Access to Sport Fishing Opportunities

The Boating and Angler Access program leverages federal Dingell-Johnson funds to improve, operate and maintain 398 recreational boating and angler access sites in Alaska, providing the public with safe and legal access to sport fishing opportunities. Three major capital projects were completed this year including replacing a fish grinding building in partnership with the City of Homer, upgrading Jim's Landing boat launch with the USFWS, and installing a new sewage pump-out station at Shoemaker Harbor with the City of Wrangell.

Aquatic Invasive Species Control Efforts

The ADF&G removed nearly 2,000 invasive northern pike to reduce predation on Chinook and coho salmon, completed lake surveys across Southcentral, and initiated research to better understand pike movement and prevent new populations from being established. The invasive species coordinator collaborated with partners to raise awareness, support early detection, and provide training and supplies for European green crab and advance data collection on Zebra and Quagga mussel habitat risks.

Key Department Challenges

Federal Overreach Continues to Threaten State Authority to Manage and Develop Resources

Despite strong State management and healthy populations, inappropriate federal actions under the ESA, MMPA, and ANILCA impose restrictions on resource development and fisheries and wildlife harvest. The ADF&G programs are actively engaged and continue to provide robust data and information, challenge unwarranted federal actions, and conduct necessary research. Addressing federal overreach requires significant resources and legal action.

Recruitment and Retention of Skilled Staff

The ADF&G maintained operations in 2025 thanks to dedicated staff taking on extra responsibilities, but key positions face small applicant pools and increasing competition from higher-paying federal and private employers. Housing shortages, high living costs, and inflationary pressures further complicate recruitment and retention efforts, especially in rural areas and for seasonal positions. Recognizing the need for more policy positions, ADF&G worked with the University of Alaska to develop a Master's program in Marine Policy and is supporting several staff in their pursuit of this degree.

Administrative Burdens are Impacting Workloads and Operations

Administrative processes for travel and payroll continue to cause delays and errors leading to an additional workload on program staff. These issues, combined with staffing constraints noted above, reduce staff's ability to respond to emerging issues and capacity for core services.

Sustaining Fishing Opportunities

Poor Chinook salmon production statewide and recent declines in coho salmon in select areas have led to fishing restrictions, negatively impacting fishermen, communities, local economies, and subsistence culture over the last five years. However, there has been some rebound in salmon across the State, except for the Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim region where escapement is still below goals, requiring continuation of fishing restrictions in these systems.

Maintaining Sustainable Commercial Fisheries

Close stock monitoring is essential to prevent overfishing, achieve maximum sustained yield, and provide harvest and population estimates critical for effective management, especially for weak stocks and those that support subsistence uses. Limited availability and costs of charter aircraft have reduced salmon aerial survey capacity, resulting in missed harvest opportunities and data gaps that affect management decisions. Increasing dependence on State-owned assets means continued investment is critical.

Aging Vessels and Aircraft Require Continued Investment

The ADF&G operates six large research vessels and 16 aircraft essential for fish and wildlife assessments. Additional maintenance and replacement funding has been vital to protecting State investments and programs. However, two vessels are at risk of missing drydock, and pilot shortages hinder the ability to complete surveys and field work. Budget constraints present ongoing challenges, which risk compromising the safety and effectiveness of management efforts.

Rising Costs and Declining Revenues Strain Program Delivery

Inflation, reduced license sales, and uncertainty in federal grant funding are limiting the ability to maintain programs and services and complete planned projects. Construction and material costs have significantly increased, reducing

the number of access and maintenance projects that can be completed. Declining commercial fishery tax revenue and test fish receipts are impacting program budgets and the ability to effectively manage fisheries, particularly subsistence and personal use which do not generate revenue. The ADF&G continues to prioritize high-return fisheries and explore efficiencies to reduce reliance on general funds.

Aquatic Invasive Species Pose a Growing Threat to Alaska's Ecosystems

Northern pike, European green crab, and zebra/quagga mussels are spreading and require continued monitoring, public engagement, and rapid response to prevent long-term ecological damage. Funding levels fluctuate based on limited grant funding opportunities, and collaboration with other state and federal agencies is necessary to address threats from aquatic invasive species across jurisdictions.

Data Analysis Capacity and Growing Demand

Managing multiple databases, some of which are outdated, along with rising requests for real-time analysis necessitate skilled in-house programmer expertise and are pulling program staff away from core services. Meeting the needs of regulatory boards, policymakers, and the public requires additional investment in data systems and personnel. The ADF&G continues leveraging new technologies and data modernization efforts to optimize operations as funding allows.

Significant Changes in Results to be Delivered in FY2027

The main areas of focus for ADF&G will continue to be:

- Restoring open communication and dialogue with Alaskans
- Protecting the State's right to manage natural resources
- Maximizing economic and social benefits
- Prioritizing research and expanding fishery assessment programs to support informed management decisions
- Maintenance funding for vessels and aircraft
- Fostering the next generation of hunters, trappers, fishers, and professionals
- Continuing to look for budget efficiencies
- Initiating regulatory reform through implementation of Administrative Order 360

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

4. Community and Regional Affairs / Community and Regional Affairs Operating Bill (CCS HB 53 (brf sup maj fld H), Sec. 1)

It is the intent of the legislature that the Bristol Bay Science and Research Institute continue to share data with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

The Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development's Division of Community and Regional Affairs confirms that the intent language is incorporated within the scope of work outlined in the Chum Salmon Assessment and Genetics Lab grant agreement with the Bristol Bay Science and Research Institute (BBSRI). In addition, the Department of Fish and Game (DFG) works closely with the BBSRI on several fishery research projects and the BBSRI continues to share data and information with the DFG in a timely manner.

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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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Item No.	Appropriation / Allocation	Description	Amount / Fund Source	LFD Questions
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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Item No.	Appropriation / Allocation	Description	Amount / Fund Source	LFD Questions
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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Item No.	Appropriation / Allocation	Description	Amount / Fund Source	LFD Questions
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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Item No.	Appropriation / Allocation	Description	Amount / Fund Source	LFD Questions
	<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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Item No.	Appropriation / Allocation	Description	Amount / Fund Source	LFD Questions
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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Item No.	Appropriation / Allocation	Description	Amount / Fund Source	LFD Questions
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.				