

Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission



House Finance Subcommittee

February 17, 2026

CFEC's Relationship with the Alaska Legislature

Alaska Statute 16.43.980 Report and recommendations.

(a) The commission shall prepare an annual report and notify the legislature that it is available. The report must include but not be limited to the following:

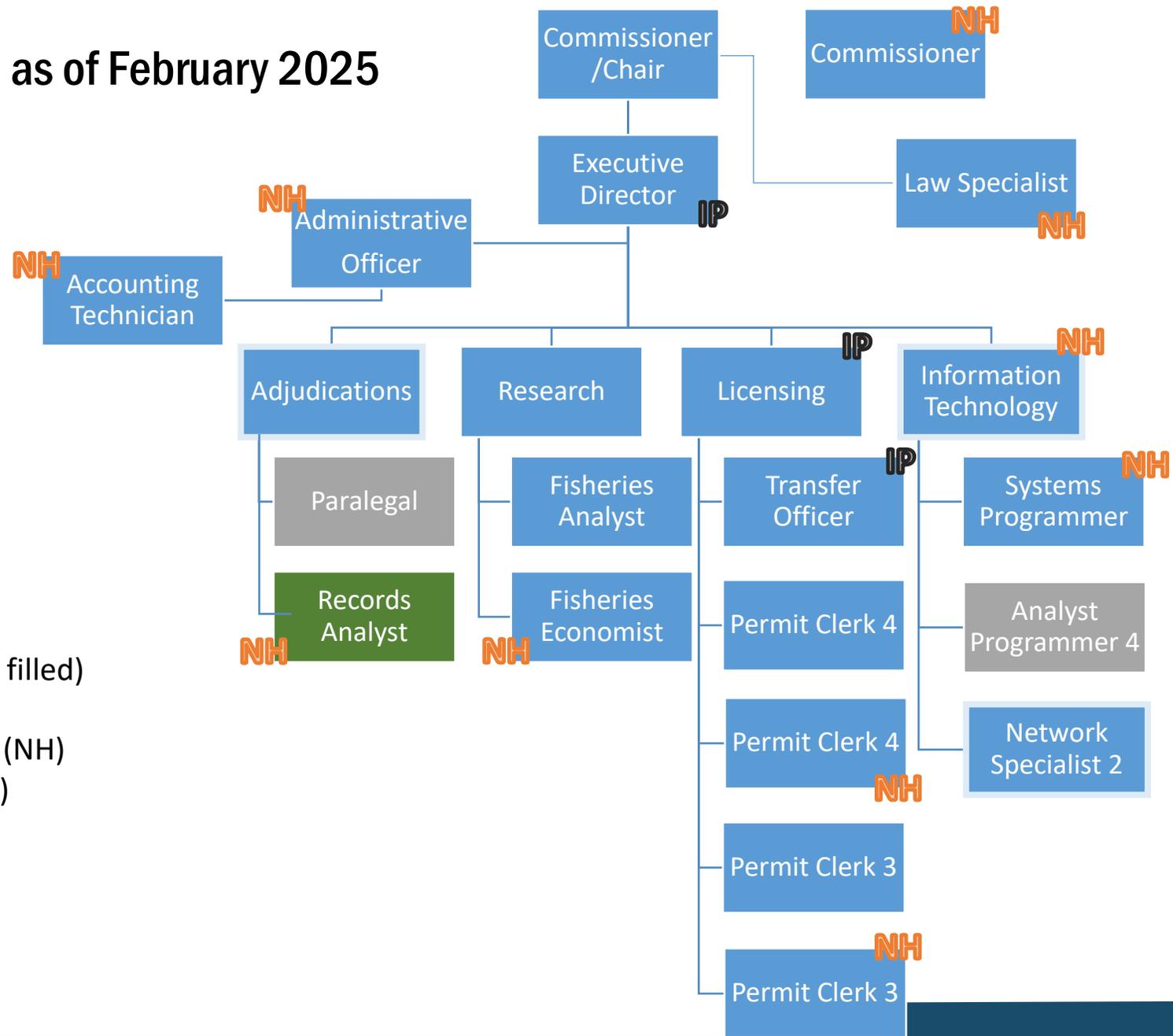
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(2) Recommendations for additional legislation relating to the regulation of entry of participants and vessels into Alaska commercial fisheries.

CFEC - Small Footprint / **Big Impact**

- Permitting the fleet
 - 16,973 active permits annually / 7,101 vessels licensed. A staff of less than 20 people -
 - Supports a fleet that earned \$1.08 billion in 2024. 2022/2023 estimated ~\$6.0 billion in economic impact for Alaska
- Direct financial contributor to State of Alaska's budget
 - Used 59% of revenues collected in FY25
- Keeper of confidential and critical commercial fishery data
 - Service to public and private agencies – enforcement, child support, taxation, research, economic development.
 - Database that holds over 3.8 billion bits of unique data from 11.8 million fish tickets since 1975
- Protects integrity of the limited entry program
 - Limited entry permits valued at \$740 million

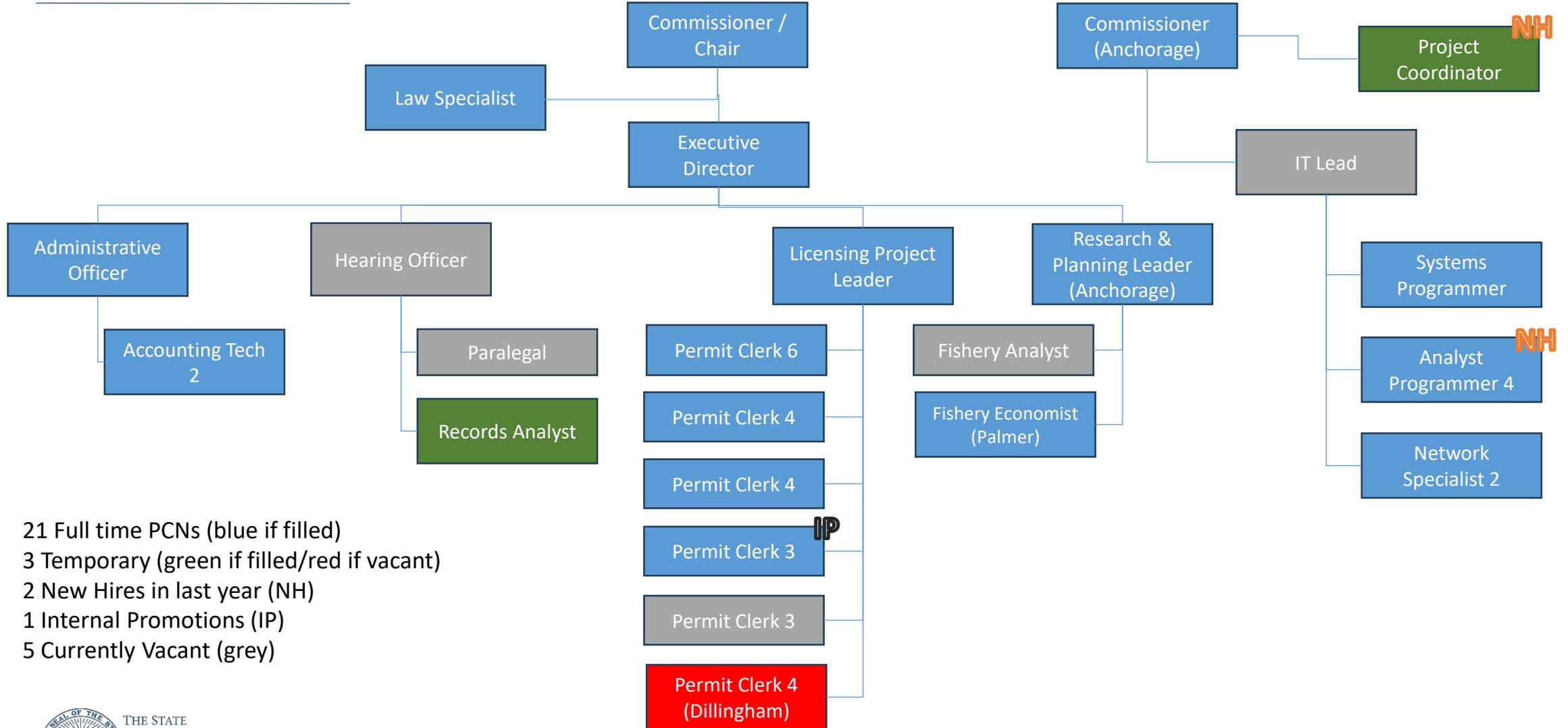
Organization Chart – as of February 2025



- 21 Full time PCNs (blue if filled)
- 1 Temporary (green)
- 10 New Hires in last year (NH)
- 3 Internal Promotions (IP)
- 2 Vacant (grey)



Organization Chart – as of February 2026



- 21 Full time PCNs (blue if filled)
- 3 Temporary (green if filled/red if vacant)
- 2 New Hires in last year (NH)
- 1 Internal Promotions (IP)
- 5 Currently Vacant (grey)



Role of CFEC past and present

- Limiting Entry
 - Established limits to participation to 68 fisheries
 - Reviews continue albeit much fewer
- Optimum Numbers Studies
 - Determine if limited fisheries have the correct number of permits
 - Three done prior to 2022
 - Kodiak Herring Food and Bait Seine/Gillnet & Trawl fisheries– Completed October 2024 and January 2025
 - Request for Prince William Sound Salmon Drift Gillnet fishery optimum numbers study December 2024
 - Survey of Permit Holders Completed August 2025, results published November 2025
 - Cost model currently being build, assumptions being tested
- Buyback Programs
 - None to date
 - SB158 for the Cook Inlet Set Gillnet Eastside Fishery
 - Likely targets – herring fisheries

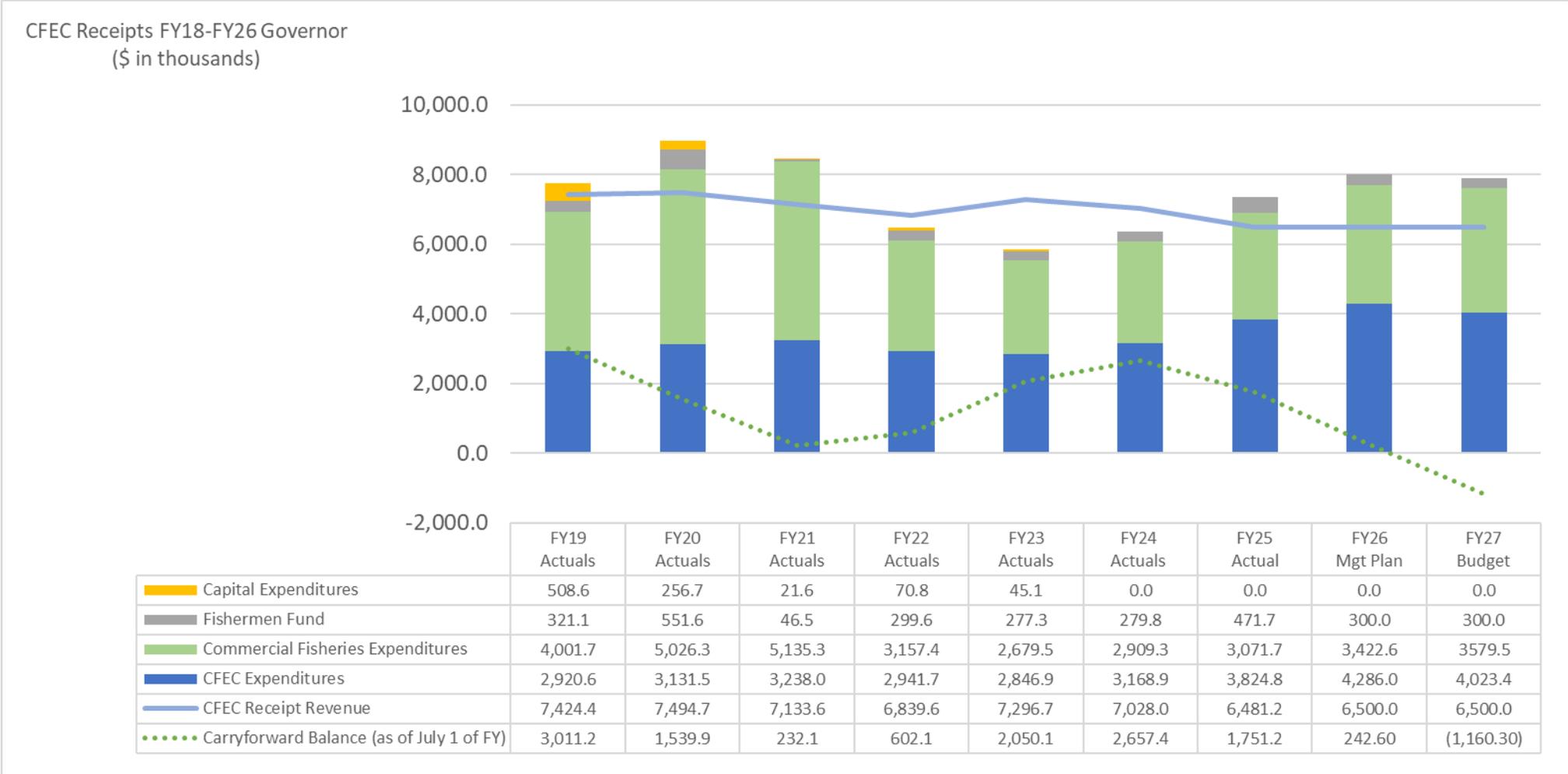
CFEC Going Forward

- IT systems modernization
- Records reduction & archival project
- Participation at Board of Fisheries meetings
- Discussions with regions on permit retention
- Multi-Agency re-alignment of fish ticket process meetings underway
- Multi-agency refining demerit point system discussions underway
- Fishery by fishery analysis to promote economic stability

2025 Outcomes

- 9 Commission decisions issued
- 28 Adjudication decisions issued
- 16,973 commercial fishing permits issued
- 7,101 vessel licenses issued
- 1,409 permit transfers processed
- Licensing records scanning project - 90% complete and 50% reduction of archival paper record
- \$4.6m processed through online renewal (LEON)
- IT staffed and moving on licensing system upgrade
- Support for Legislative efforts – HBI9, SBI58, Seafood task force
- Numerous research reports
 - 4 Board of Fisheries Reports
 - 1 optimum numbers report
 - Prince William Sound Drift Gillnet cost survey report
 - Monthly permit value reports
 - Changes in permit distribution report
 - Gross earnings report for 2024
- Stabilizing staff – including heighten expertise in administrative functions

Overview Revenue / Expenditures FY19-FY27



Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission Budget Overview – Expenditures

Expenditures	FY26		
	FY25 Actuals	Management Plan	FY27 Governor
In Thousands of Dollars			
1000 Personal Services	\$ 2,894.8	\$ 3,267.60	\$ 3,611.90
2000 Travel	\$ 47.1	\$ 28.90	\$ 28.90
3000 Services	\$ 760.5	\$ 904.10	\$ 297.20
4000 Commodities	\$ 122.4	\$ 85.40	\$ 85.40
8000 Miscellaneous	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Totals	\$ 3,824.8	\$ 4,286.0	\$ 4,023.4



Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission Budget Overview – Funding

	FY25 Actuals	FY26 Management Plan	FY27 Governor
In Thousands of Dollars			
Funding Source(s)			
1201 CFEC Receipts (DGF)	\$ 3,824.8	\$ 4,286.00	\$ 4,023.40
1201 CFEC Total Receipts	\$ 6,481.2	\$ 6,500.0	\$ 6,500.0
Positions			
Permanent Full Time	21	21	21
Temporary	0	0	3



FY2027 Budget Changes

In FY25, Legislature authorized \$450.0 for a 3-year increment (FY25-FY27) for IT modernization. This is ongoing on will be exhausted early FY27 if not FY26. A request of \$500.0 as a 3-year increment (FY27-FY29) would keep the project moving forward.

\$211.0 increase in personal services related to salary, insurance, and retirement increases from SB259. This was taken from 3000-Services which now sits as a deficit.

Personal services does not reflect the three temporary positions including the seasonal permit clerk to be stationed in Dillingham.

IT Class Study's impact tentatively estimated at an additional \$106.3.



Thank you

Questions?

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