

**Alaska Department of Fish and Game
FY 2016 Operating Budget Adopted by House Finance Subcommittee**

Division of Commercial Fisheries

-\$8,361.5

Projects are listed by region on the attached two-page spreadsheet. Cuts are offset by \$4 million in designated general fund (DGF) revenue; \$3.5 million from CFEC Receipts and \$.5 million from commercial crewmember license receipts.

Division of Sport Fish

-\$538.5

The Governor's endorsed budget includes a UGF cut of \$538.5 as described in items 1-5 below.

- ***Sport Fisheries Component Total: \$523.8***
 - ***Sport Fish Hatcheries Component Total: \$14.7***
1. **\$148.5** Sport Fisheries Component, temporary increment for Coho Escapement Monitoring at Lewis, Theodore River and Montana Creek (FY15-FY16). The division will not use operating UGF for this project. The impact would be that this project will reduce the CIP funds used for the Salmon Research Restoration and Enhancement Initiatives for the Matanuska Valley and Susitna River drainages.
 2. **\$90.0** Sport Fisheries Component, temporary increment for Yentna River Fishwheel Recapture Project (FY15-FY16). The division will not use operating UGF for this project. The impact would be that this project will reduce the CIP funds used for the Salmon Research Restoration and Enhancement Initiatives for the Matanuska Valley and Susitna River drainages.
 3. **\$204.9** Sport Fisheries Component, reorganization of the Southeast Trout and Fresh Water Habitat Program. The division will reduce \$204.9 which funded two biologists' positions *PCN 11-4051 Fishery Biologist III* and *PCN 11-7064 Habitat Biologist III*. The division has reorganized the Southeast Trout and Fresh Water Habitat Program.
 4. **\$80.4** Sport Fisheries Component, reduction of administrative support. The division will reduce an *Administrative Assistant I, PCN 11-1316*. This position provided administrative support to the division's statewide programs. We achieved this through streamlining, attrition, and reorganizing and consolidating tasks to generate savings.
 5. **\$14.7** Sport Fish Hatcheries Component, decommissioning broodstock at Fort Richardson Hatchery. The division has made reductions to facility support for our transitional/prior broodstock facility located at Fort Richardson. As a result, the broodstocks are being phased into William Jack Hernandez Sport Fish Hatchery.

Division of Wildlife Conservation

-\$1,580.2

Governor's endorsed budget includes UGF cut of \$1,180.2 that is offset by federal funds. An additional \$400.0 UGF cut would result in the following reductions.

Endangered Species Act – Department of Law (\$155.0): The proposed reductions decrease the funds provided to Law for ESA issues.

Wildlife Viewing (\$120.0): These funds have been used to employ a single position to provide wildlife viewing guides for popular viewing activities and destinations.

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Special Areas (\$50.0): The state has 32 special areas including state wildlife refuges, sanctuaries, and critical habitat areas. The proposed cuts shorten the seasons that the state provides visitor services.
Travel (\$75.0): Reductions in travel funds will reduce the effectiveness of the above programs which are not suitable for federal match.

Commissioner's Office Reduction **-\$100.0**

Eliminate Communications Coordinator position (PCN 11-1819) and restructure duties among divisions.

Administrative Services **-\$400.0**

This division provides support to all other divisions and programs in the department. The result is a reduced level of service and a slower response time to the divisions as the duties are being spread among existing staff.

Delete the following three positions:

11-0260	Supply Technician
11-5343	Program Coordinator I
11-0111	Information Officer III

Boards Support Reduction **-\$100.0**

Boards Support was reduced by \$160.0 (10%) in FY 2015. Months have been reduced for five seasonal regional coordinator positions and the Board of Game recently voted to switch to a 3-year cycle. An additional \$100.0 cut would result in reduced advisory committee travel and meetings.

Division of Subsistence **-\$400.0**

The Division of Subsistence has been fortunate to receive GF increments in the past years for baseline research update efforts, specifically, \$200.0 in FY11 for community index research and \$275.8 for Regional HUBS research in FY13. The impact of this reduction will cause the division to cancel planned research in selected communities identified as indexes and regional hubs which were intended to be representative of areas of the state in the research process. The purpose of the research is to document comprehensive contemporary patterns of customary and traditional subsistence uses of fish and wildlife for Alaskans. This reduction will leave the division with incomplete community subsistence research data and will result in data collection being more reactive to subsistence issues.

The division will also delete two full-time positions that have recently become vacant:

11-0439	Subsistence Resource Specialist II
11-0605	Administrative Assistant III

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Division of Habitat

-\$500.0

Title 16 Permitting: Proposed reductions would result in increased wait times for permits to the public, businesses and other agencies, a decrease in field inspections, and a reduction in compliance actions. Habitat Division currently has 32 Habitat Biologist positions involved in permitting and project reviews. Eliminate Habitat Biologists PCN 11-1723 and PCN 11-6036.

Anadromous Waters Catalog: Update the AWC on a less than annual basis.

Special Area Management and Planning: Reduce effort on planning commensurate with existing staff. Habitat currently has 2 PCNs devoted to Special Area Planning; one is vacant. Effort will be focused sequentially on completing three Special Area Plans for which drafts already exist (Dude Creek Critical Habitat Area, Willow Mountain Critical Habitat Area, and Bristol Bay Critical Habitat Area) and revising vague and confusing language in existing plans. We propose maintaining the existing vacancy in the event we are able to secure soft funding for planning.

Large Project Reviews: Eliminate routine reviews of Army Corps of Engineers wetland fill and other Sec. 404 (Clean Water Act) permits. Focus Habitat Division involvement on those projects for which we receive reimbursable funding and those that will have the biggest impacts to fish habitat.

Administrative Support: Eliminate vacant Administrative Assistant PCN 11-1538.