

DEPARTMENT OF FISH & GAME
FY19 - Increment/Decrement Status

Legislative Additions and Deletions

Item #	Approp/ Allocation	Description	Amount/Fund Source	Comment	GF Dec?	LFD Notes/ Questions?	Department Comments
1	Various Appropriations/ Various Allocations	Add Commercial Fisheries Revolving Loan Fund Increments for Assessments, Projects, Surveys, and Logbook/ Vessel Registration Programs	\$1,147.0 CharterRLF (DGF)	The legislature added increments to various allocations within the Commercial Fisheries and Sport Fisheries appropriations, utilizing Commercial Charter Fisheries Revolving Loan Funds as follows: • Commercial Fisheries \$997.0 Total • Sport Fisheries \$150.0 Total	No	What are the impacts of these additions? Give examples for each Management area and discuss the replacement of Charter Fisheries RLF appropriations for FY20.	Sport Fisheries: The increment addition of \$150.0 helped to offset additional spending from our FGF necessary to fully implement the Charter Vessel Logbook Program in FY19. Commercial Fisheries: The increment addition of \$997.0 helped to offset loss of funds transferred from CFEC necessary to fully implement stock assessment surveys and high priority fishery management projects. For example, in the AYK Region this increment funded a red king crab survey in Norton Sound. This is a high value fishery that would be closed or severely restricted without this survey. These funds allow a fishery valued in excess of \$2 million to take be managed sustainably. In Southeast Region this increment funds herring surveys in seven areas that can not be opened without biomass estimates generated from aerial surveys. Surveys will be conducted in spring 2019 to assess herring biomass and fishery potential. In Central Region this increment funds a salmon counting tower on the Alagnak River. The Alagank River is an extremely productive sockeye salmon system sometimes producing over one million sockeye salmon available for harvest by sport, commercial, and subsistence fishermen. Without this counting tower fisheries would be managed more conservatively, with less fishing time and lost harvest opportunity. This fishery likely approaches \$10 million in value. In Westward Region this increment funds an additional month of counting time at the Chignik Weir. The Chignik Management Area salmon fisheries are dependent on counts at the Chignik Weir. Increasing the amount of time the weir is active will ensure no lost fishing time and harvest and maintain robust salmon stock status data collection needed to forecast future returns and productivity.

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2	Wildlife Conservation/ Wildlife Conservation	Add One-Time Increment to Reduce the Change of Lapsing federal Pittman- Robertson (P/R) Funding in FY19	\$1,000.0 CharterRLF (DGF) IncOTI	In an attempt to avoid reverting additional funds in FY19, the legislature added \$1,000.0 from the CharterRLF funding source as a one-time item. These funds will be used for restoration of wild birds and mammals and to acquire, develop and manage wildlife habitats, hunter training programs and the development, operation and maintenance of public shooting ranges.	No	What is the impact of this one-time addition and the relation to FY20 proposed funding? Include the department's view of federal Pittman- Robertson Funding in FY20.	The addition of the Charter RLF provides the division with more state match to our federal funds. With P/R funding, every \$1 of state funds is matched with \$3 of P/R funding. For the last two fiscal years (FY17 and FY18) the division has fully spent state operating funds (FG and GF) to match P/R funds, other federal grants, and to meet state program responsibilities. P/R funding has increased the last few years and in the current FY19 fiscal year the division was apportioned appx. \$33.5 million. For the upcoming fiscal year 2020, we expect a P/R reduction of about 17% or appx. \$27.7 million of new P/R funds. However, we expect FY20 to be similar program year to FY19 due to large carryover of federal P/R funds.

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3	Wildlife Conservation/ Wildlife Conservation	Add Positions for the Creation of a New Wildlife Access Program and to Review Wildlife Access Projects	Total: \$164.9 \$123.7 Fed Rcpts \$41.2 G/F Match (UGF) 1 PFT/ 1 Temp Positions	Also, in an attempt to minimize the chance of reverting federal P/R funding, the legislature also added \$164.9 and two positions to establish a statewide wildlife access program in the Division of Wildlife Conservation. These positions will work with the Department of Natural Resources, municipalities and other entities to identify wildlife access projects that qualify for federal Pittman-Robertson (P/R) funding. Up until now, the focus of the department has been on Hunter Access programs. Expanding the scope of projects to "wildlife access" projects allows for flexibility in the types of projects that can be funded by federal P/R funds and provides additional opportunities of obtaining match.	No	What are the impacts of these additions? Have the positions been established? Filled as of what date? Has the scope of projects been expanded to "wildlife access"? And what is the anticipated result?	Fish and Game funds are required to benefit license holders and P/R funds can be used on hunting and viewing access projects; the legislature added the G/F funds as a match, which allowed broader use of the federal P/R funds for these access projects. Our existing Hunter Access program is primarily focused on projects benefitting hunters, but occasionally wildlife viewing access programs are received. To accommodate these projects we have expanded the Hunter/Wildlife Access program by adding two positions which were hired in January 2019. We have established new criteria for project review. The Department has many pending projects, but those meeting the 25% match requirement will be given highest priority.