

2019 SESSION OPERATING BUDGET AMENDMENT

OFFERED IN: The House Finance Fish and Game Subcommittee

TO: HB 39 / HB 40

OFFERED BY: Rep. Ortiz

DEPARTMENT: Department of Fish and Game

APPROPRIATION: Sport Fisheries

ALLOCATION: ~~Sport Fish Operations~~
Sport Fisheries

\$ 350.0

ADD: ~~\$300.0~~ Fish and Game Fund (1024) Personal Services.

EXPLANATION:

The saltwater logbook data provides critical information that informs management decisions required under various treaties, such as the Pacific Halibut Treaty and the Pacific Salmon Treaty as well as Board of Fish management plans.

#4

2019 SESSION OPERATING BUDGET AMENDMENT

OFFERED IN: The House Finance Fish and Game Subcommittee

TO: HB 39 / HB 40

OFFERED BY: Representative Stutes

DEPARTMENT: Department of Fish and Game
APPROPRIATION: Commercial Fisheries

~~\$539.2~~
\$439.2

ADD: ~~\$539.2~~ of UGF (1004) to the following allocations for the projects specified in the below tables. All funding items are in the personal services line.

ALLOCATION: Central Region Fisheries Management

Region	Project	UGF (1004)	Inc Type
CEN	CWT PWS	\$ 189.2	Inc
CEN	PWS Tanner Crab	\$ 50.0	Inc
	Region Total	\$ 239.2	

ALLOCATION: Westward Region Fisheries Management

Region	Project	UGF (1004)	Inc Type
WW	Chignik Weir	\$ 100.0	Inc
WW	Kodiak Weir	\$ 100.0	Inc
	Region Total	\$ 300.0	

\$ 200.0

EXPLANATION:

CEN (\$239.2)

Without this funding, the department has indicated it will cut the Prince William Sound (PWS) Coded Wire Tag Program, as well as the PWS Tanner crab biomass estimate. The PWS Tanner crab fishery last year was the first in three decades. It was highly successful, and this data is needed to support the growth of this new fishery. The PWS Coded Wire Tag Program, or the "otolith" program, measures stock harvest composition of hatchery

and wild salmon. It is an invaluable tool for in-season management and research. The commercial fisheries division receives a positive return on investment and funding these projects will lead directly to increased revenue for our fishermen, local communities, and the State. Conversely, without this data, the department will manage more conservatively, resulting in decreased revenue to our fishermen, local communities, and the State. This increment was in last year's budget.

²⁰⁰⁰
WW (~~\$300.0~~)

Without this funding, the department has indicated that it will cut the Chignik Weir's operational time by one month, as well as logistical support and time at the Karluk, Dog Salmon, Ayakulik and Upper Station weirs. Weirs are perhaps the most critical tool for assessing escapement for in-season management and prosecuting fisheries to highest public benefit. The commercial fisheries division receives a positive return on investment and funding these weirs will lead directly to increased revenue to our fishermen, local communities, and the State. Conversely, without this data, the department will manage more conservatively, resulting in decreased revenue for our fishermen, local communities, and the State. This increment was in last year's budget.

Substitute #5
Amendment

2019 SESSION OPERATING BUDGET AMENDMENT

OFFERED IN: The House Finance Department of Fish and Game Subcommittee

TO: HB 39 / HB 40

OFFERED BY: Representative Stutes

DEPARTMENT: Department of Fish and Game

APPROPRIATION: Statewide Support Services

ADD: It is the intent of the legislature that the Department of Fish and Game retain the State Subsistence Research Division Director PCN (11-0400) and the Habitat Division Director PCN (11-6001) and that these PCNs and associated funding not be used outside of those allocations.

EXPLANATION: It is unclear how either division would be able to satisfy its statutory and/or constitutional obligations without a director. The governor's proposed budget amendments to transfer the aforementioned PCNs to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) did not provide an adequate explanation regarding how those duties would be absorbed within the department or fulfilled to the satisfaction of the law; further, the need within OMB that precipitated the proposed transfer was not explained.

That aside, the Divisions of Subsistence and Habitat are critical to the people of Alaska, as well as the mission of the Department of Fish and Game. Removing these positions without compelling justification and an in-depth analysis of the impacts poses an unacceptable risk.

This amendment clarifies the intent of this committee for any future discussion on the issue.