

**Department of Fish and Game**  
**FY22 - Summary of Significant Budget Issues**  
(\$ thousands)

Item	Appropriation / Allocation	Description	Governor Request	Amount Enacted	Comment
1	Commercial Fisheries / Southeast Region Fisheries Management	Reopen Wrangell Commercial Fisheries Office (Inc/Dec Pair)	n/a	\$66.2 Gen Fund (UGF) <b>1 PFT Position</b>	<p>The legislature added \$66.2 of UGF funding and a new position for the agency to reopen the Wrangell Commercial Fisheries Office, in order to provide local staffing and service. A corresponding decrement for the same amount in the Wildlife Conservation allocation makes this an Inc/Dec pair with a net zero funding effect, though the Wildlife decrement did not remove a position.</p> <p><b>Items 1 and 9 are related.</b></p> <p><b>Fiscal Analyst Comment:</b> In FY21, the Governor advanced a proposal to close the Wrangell office, eliminate a PPT Fish and Game Technician position, and move a PFT Assistant Area Management Biologist position to Petersburg. The proposal stated that the Wrangell area could be served by the position in Petersburg without a reduced level of service to the Wrangell community. The legislature denied the decrement, and the Governor removed the funding through a veto.</p>
2	Commercial Fisheries / Central Region Fisheries Management	Maintain Bristol Bay Watershed Projects with UGF Funding in Place of SDPR (FY22-FY23)	\$800.0 Stat Desig (Other)	\$800.0 Gen Fund (UGF)	<p>In FY18, the Bristol Bay Science and Research Institute and other industry participants established the Bristol Bay Fisheries Collective and partnered with Fish and Game to establish a Memorandum of Agreement to fund certain priority projects that had been subject to UGF reductions. The legislature provided \$800.0 of Statutory Designated Program Receipt (SDPR) authority by which industry could support these projects and surveys to ensure ongoing access to key fisheries. In FY22, the legislature restored UGF funding for these projects for the remainder of the period in which the SDPR authority had most recently been authorized. This temporary UGF increment runs through FY23.</p> <p><b>Bristol Bay Watershed projects included in this funding:</b>  Nushagak Sonar (June 1 - July 30)  Port Moller (R/V Pandalus)  Kvichak Inriver Test Fish  FB I (Test Fish Coordinator)  Egegik Inriver Test Fish  Ugashik Inriver Test Fish  Alagnak Tower</p>

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2	Commercial Fisheries / Central Region Fisheries Management	Maintain Bristol Bay Watershed Projects with UGF Funding in Place of SDPR (FY22-FY23)	\$800.0 Stat Desig (Other)	\$800.0 Gen Fund (UGF)	(continued) Tower Extensions Port Moller Test Fishery
3	Commercial Fisheries / Statewide Fisheries Management	Align Budget Authority to Current Revenue Levels for Commercial Fisheries	<b>Total: \$5,200.0</b> \$4,000.0 Fed Rcpts (Fed) \$200.0 I/A Rcpts (Other) \$1,000.0 CIP Rcpts (Other)	<b>Total: \$5,200.0</b> \$4,000.0 Fed Rcpts (Fed) \$200.0 I/A Rcpts (Other) \$1,000.0 CIP Rcpts (Other)	This increment allows the agency to receive increased federal funding for work related to the Pacific Salmon Treaty. This also adds inter-agency receipt authority and capital improvement project receipt authority in order to align these budgeted amounts with the agency's need.  <b>Items 3 and 6 are related.</b>  <b>Fiscal Analyst Comment:</b> The Governor submitted this requested in a consolidated Commercial Fisheries allocation, but the legislature denied the structure change. The agency will need to distribute this receipt authority to the appropriate regional allocations. These transfers will appear in the agency's FY22 Management Plan.
4	Commercial Fisheries / Statewide Fisheries Management	Increase Use of Commercial Crew License Revenues to Replace UGF and CFEC Receipts	<b>Net Zero</b> (\$783.5) Gen Fund (UGF) \$855.0 GF/Prgm (DGF) (\$71.5) CFEC Rcpts (DGF)	<b>Net Zero</b> (\$783.5) Gen Fund (UGF) \$1,500.0 GF/Prgm (DGF) (\$716.5) CFEC Rcpts (DGF)	Upon learning of a projected Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC) receipt shortfall, the legislature chose to increase the Commercial Crew License receipt authority (GF/Prgm) in this fund change, and further decrease the amount of CFEC receipt authority in order to avoid over-appropriating the CFEC fund balance. While the legislature did accept the \$783.5 UGF decrement associated with this transaction, a separate IncOTI for \$800.0 UGF was added to temporarily offset this reduction.  <b>Items 4, 5, and 6 are related.</b>  <b>Fiscal Analyst Comment:</b> The agency has approximately a \$3.3 million carryforward balance accumulated in Commercial Crew License receipts, so spending at this appropriated level will deplete these funds in two fiscal years. The overall impact of this fund change and the UGF increment in item 5 results in a net increase of \$800.0 in funding and authority. The agency is not obligated to increase spending, and may chose to preserve the affected fund sources. Regardless, the Commercial Crew License receipt carryforward

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5	Commercial Fisheries / Statewide Fisheries Management	UGF Appropriation to Prevent Shortfall of CFEC Receipts	n/a	\$800.0 Gen Fund (UGF) <b>IncOTI</b>	For several years, the Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC) receipt carryforward balance has been spent down and gradually depleted, as the use of CFEC receipts has increased in order to offset UGF reductions to Commercial Fisheries. The CFEC agency requires a carryforward balance in order to operate using those seasonal receipts, and cannot rely on current year license and permit fees revenues due to timing and volatility. This one-time increment of UGF will temporarily offset agency reliance on CFEC funds.  <b>Items 4, 5, and 6 are related.</b>
6	Commercial Fisheries / Commercial Fisheries	Eliminate Regional and Statewide Fisheries Management Allocations and Consolidate in New Commercial Fisheries Allocation	n/a	n/a	The legislature denied a structure change that would have consolidated the Statewide allocation and four regional allocations under the Commercial Fisheries appropriation into a single 'Commercial Fisheries' allocation.  <b>Item 6 is related to items 3, 4, and 5.</b>  <b>Fiscal Analyst Comment:</b> The Governor's budget transactions for Commercial Fisheries were submitted in the consolidated structure, and because the legislature did not accept the structure change, several transactions will need to be split up and redistributed to the regional allocations. The legislature placed those items in the Statewide Fisheries Management allocation, and can expect to see corresponding transfers to regional allocations in the FY22 Management Plan.
7	Sport Fisheries / Sport Fisheries	Funding for Crystal Lake and DIPAC Hatcheries	n/a	n/a	The legislature appropriated funding from the Sport Fish Enterprise Account to maintain Southeast sport fish enhancement contracts with private non-profit hatcheries. The legislature indicated that \$500.0 was intended for the Crystal

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7	Sport Fisheries / Sport Fisheries	Funding for Crystal Lake and DIPAC Hatcheries	n/a	n/a	<p>(continued)</p> <p>Lake Hatchery near Petersburg, and the remaining \$150.0 should go to the Douglas Island Pink and Chum (DIPAC) Hatchery in Juneau. The Governor vetoed this funding.</p> <p><b>Fiscal Analyst Comment:</b> From 2006 to 2020, the Sport Fish Facility Surcharge authorized under AS 16.05.340(j) was added to certain angler licenses in order to pay the bond debt for the construction of two State-owned and operated Sport Fish hatcheries: The Ruth Burnett Sport Fish Hatchery in Fairbanks, and the William Jack Hernandez Sport Fish Hatchery in Anchorage. These funds accrued to the Alaska Sport Fish Enterprise Account (fund code 1199). Approximately \$5 million of those surcharge revenues were appropriated annually to service the bond debt. An additional \$500.0 was appropriated annually in the language section of the operating bill for specific enhancement projects designed to benefit anglers in Southeast Alaska, with \$300.0 directed to DIPAC, and \$200.0 to the Crystal Lake Hatchery. The appropriation for Southeast enhancement projects was intended to balance out the regional benefit to users, who paid the surcharge regardless of their proximity to the State-owned Sport Fish hatcheries in Anchorage and Fairbanks.</p> <p>When the bond debt was satisfied in 2020, this triggered a statutory sunset of the surcharge on December 31 of that year. At this time, the Department reports approximately \$3.3 million remaining in the Sport Fish Enterprise account. Because these funds were collected as sport fish license receipts, they are dedicated funds in a subaccount under the Fish and Game fund. The Alaska Constitution generally prohibits the dedication of funds, but makes an exception when required by the federal government for State participation in federal programs. Fish and Game license revenues must be dedicated in order for the State to be eligible to receive federal Dingell-Johnson or Wallup-Breaux sport fish funds (or Pittman-Robertson wildlife funds). Following the sunset of the surcharge, the funds remain in the Sport Fish Enterprise Account, and</p>

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7	Sport Fisheries / Sport Fisheries	Funding for Crystal Lake and DIPAC Hatcheries	n/a	n/a	(continued) require legislative appropriation in order to be expended or transferred to the primary Fish and Game fund (fund code 1024).
8	Wildlife Conservation / Wildlife Conservation	Align Budget Authority to Current Revenue Levels for Wildlife Conservation Pittman-Robertson	<b>Total: \$11,000.0</b> \$9,500.0 Fed Rcpts (Fed) \$1,500.0 Fish/Game (Other)	<b>Total: \$11,000.0</b> \$9,500.0 Fed Rcpts (Fed) \$1,500.0 Fish/Game (Other)	<p>This authority ensures that the Department can secure the full federal apportionment of Pittman-Robertson funds and provide a sufficient amount of Fish and Game funds to meet the 3-1 state match requirement (\$1 of state funds for every \$3 of federal funding). In previous years, this authority was shifted to the Capital budget, though the ongoing nature of these projects make the funding an appropriate candidate for inclusion in the operating budget.</p> <p><b>Fiscal Analyst Comment:</b> The State receives an annual apportionment of federal Pittman-Robertson funds, which are receipts from an excise tax on firearms, ammunition and bow-hunting supplies. Pittman-Robertson funds are used in the Department of Fish and Game for various activities including wildlife management, surveys, habitat restoration, hunter access, and hunter education and safety programs. These funds make up roughly two-thirds of the Division's operating budget, and require a 3-1 state match, meaning that the agency can apply for reimbursement of 75% of project costs, provided that 25% is funded with state funds or other funds contributed by non-profits or local and tribal governments. In the past five years, Alaska's apportionment has ranged between \$25-\$33 million, and this will likely increase due to record firearm and ammunition sales in 2020 that were driven by increased hunting activity, civil unrest, and the COVID-19 pandemic.</p>
9	Wildlife Conservation / Wildlife Conservation	Decrement to Fund Reopening of Wrangell Fish and Game Office Under Commercial Fisheries (Inc/Dec Pair)	n/a	(\$66.2) Gen Fund (UGF)	<p>The legislature decremented \$66.2 of UGF to offset an increment in the same amount under Commercial Fisheries, Southeast Region Fisheries Management, for the purpose of reopening the Wrangell Commercial Fisheries office.</p> <p><b>Items 1 and 9 are related.</b></p>

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10	Wildlife Conservation / Hunter Education Public Shooting Ranges	Replace Authority for Pittman-Robertson Grant for Shooting Ranges	<b>Net Zero</b>  \$535.0 Fed Rcpts (Fed) (\$535.0) Fish/ Game (Other)	<b>Net Zero</b>  \$535.0 Fed Rcpts (Fed) (\$535.0) Fish/ Game (Other)	In 2019, Congress passed HR 1222, the Target Practice and Marksmanship Training Support Act. This legislation increased the amount of Pittman-Robertson funds that can be used for public target ranges, and reduced the state contribution requirement from 25% to 10% for the acquisition of land for expanding or constructing target ranges. Furthermore, funds provided for these purposes are now available for five fiscal years, rather than two- allowing states to accumulate funds for larger projects. This fund change will leverage Alaska's high levels of Pittman-Robertson apportionment for its intended purpose, while simultaneously freeing up Fish and Game funds that can be used as state match for these federal funds in the Wildlife Conservation appropriation.
11	Wildlife Conservation / Hunter Education Public Shooting Ranges	Pittman-Robertson Grant for Shooting Ranges	\$100.0 Fed Rcpts (Fed)	\$100.0 Fed Rcpts (Fed)	Increased federal receipt authority will allow the Department to provide additional support to the operation of shooting ranges using Pittman Robertson funds. This will ease funding restrictions for existing operations, and allow the agency to increase the availability of services in response to public interest.
12	Various	SB 55, Ch. 9, SLA 2021 Employer Contributions to PERS	\$5,105.1 Gen Fund (UGF)	\$5,105.1 Gen Fund (UGF)	SB 55 removes the 22% cap on payroll contributions to the Public Employee Retirement System (PERS) for the State of Alaska as a PERS employer. The budgetary impact of this legislation is reflected as a shift from the direct appropriation to PERS (which is typically funded with UGF) to agency payroll, where the cost can be spread across all fund sources. This shift results in a UGF increase to Agency Operations of \$72,871.7, and a UGF decrease to Statewide Items of \$95,794.5, for a net statewide UGF savings of \$22,922.8. Specifically, the UGF impact to the Department of Fish and Game is \$5,105.1 spread across multiple appropriations.