

Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) Overview

House Resources Committee

February 1, 2023

Commissioner Doug Vincent-Lang





Constitutional & Statutory Mandates

The Constitution of the State of Alaska

Article 8 – Natural Resources; § 4. Sustained Yield.

Fish, forests, wildlife, grasslands, and all other replenishable resources belonging to the State shall be utilized, developed, and maintained on the sustained yield principle, subject to preferences among beneficial uses.

The Alaska Statutes

Title 16. Fish and Game; Sec. 16.05.020. Functions of commissioner.

(2) manage, protect, maintain, improve, and extend the fish, game and aquatic plant resources of the state in the interest of the economy and general well-being of the state.

Mission Statement

To protect, maintain, and improve the fish, game, and aquatic plant resources of the state, and manage their uses and development in the best interest of the economy and the well-being of the people of the state, consistent with the sustained yield principle.

Core Services



Management

Provide hunting, fishing and trapping opportunities, protect state's rights to manage its fish and wildlife resources, conserve and improve habitat and access.

Stock Assessment & Research

Ensure sustainability and harvestable surplus, improve assessment and research capabilities, invest in new technologies, anticipate changing conditions.

Customer Service & Public Involvement

Make improvements to information and education services, the Boards and other regulatory processes, licensing and permitting.



Return on Investment



The Alaska Department of Fish and Game turns a \$240 million dollar (of which \$65 million is GF) into a return of over \$12.5 billion annually.

Economic Value of Commercially Harvested Alaska Seafood (2019)

- ↗ Directly employs 62,200 workers annually, more than any other industry in Alaska – Largest private sector employer in Alaska
- ↗ Contributes \$163.2 million in taxes, fees, and self-assessments which help fund state, local and federal government
- ↗ Alaska seafood contributes an annual average of \$5.7 billion in economic output to the Alaska economy
- ↗ Alaska exports 2.2 billion pounds of seafood each year, returning over \$3 billion of new money into the U.S. economy

Economic Value of Sport Fisheries

- ↗ 15,879 Jobs supported
- ↗ \$246 million in taxes contributed (adjusted for inflation, \$298.64 million in 2019 dollars)
- ↗ \$545 million in income provided (adjusted for inflation, \$661.63 million in 2019 dollars)
- ↗ \$1.6 billion industry output (adjusted for inflation, \$1.950 billion in 2019 dollars)



Return on Investment Continued...

Economic value of Wildlife

- More than 27,000 Jobs supported
- 1.4 billion in labor income (adjusted for inflation, 1.566 billion in 2019 dollars)
- 3.4 billion spent by hunters and wildlife viewers (adjusted for inflation, 3.87 billion in 2019 dollars)
- \$4.1 billion economic activity statewide (adjusted for inflation, 4.59 billion in 2019 dollars)

Economic Value of Subsistence

- Replacement value of the wild food harvest of communities outside non-subsistence areas is estimated between \$170-\$340 million and \$227-\$454 million for all Alaska communities (2017)



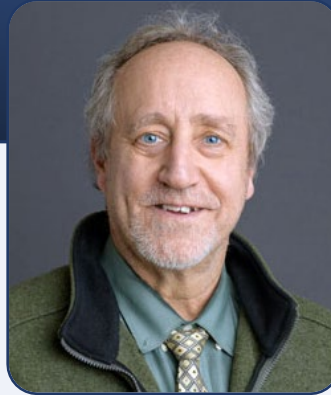
Leadership



Melissa Hill
Acting ASD



Ben Mulligan
Deputy Commissioner



Doug Vincent-Lang
Commissioner



Rachel Baker
Deputy Commissioner



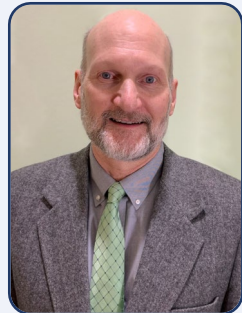
Joe Felkl
Legislative Liaison



Rick Green
Special Assistant



Sam Rabung
Director
Commercial Fisheries



Tom Taube
Acting Director
Sport Fish



Eddie Grasser
Director
Wildlife
Conservation



Kristy Tibbles
Executive Director
Board of Game



Art Nelson
Executive Director
Board of Fisheries

Habitat
Section

Subsistence
Research
Section

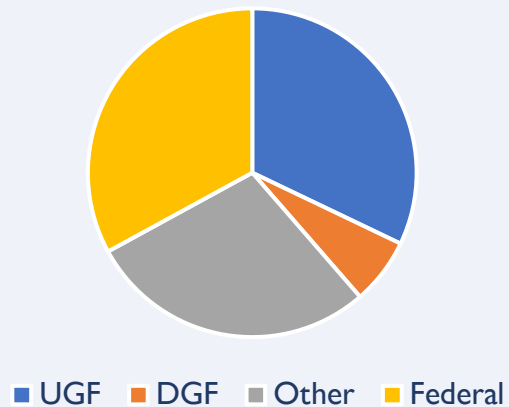
FY2023 Authorized Budget



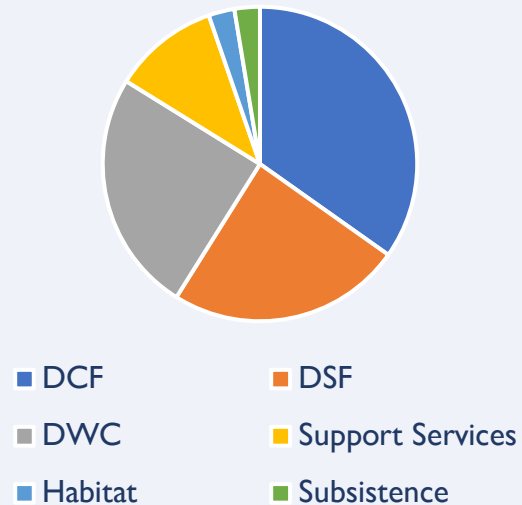
FY 2023 Authorized Budget

- 🐻 \$230,865.3 million
- 🐻 819 permanent full-time positions
- 🐻 598 permanent part-time positions
- 🐻 5 non-permanent position

By Fund Source



By Component



Office of the Commissioner

Contribution to Department Mission



Leadership & Direction

- 🦌 Establishes policy and coordinates agency strategy for the protection, management, conservation, and restoration of Alaska's fish and wildlife resources.
- 🦌 Executive level oversight of department activities and service.
- 🦌 Liaisons with the governor's office, legislature, congressional offices, other government agencies, Native tribes and organizations, and Alaska's fish and wildlife resource stakeholder groups.

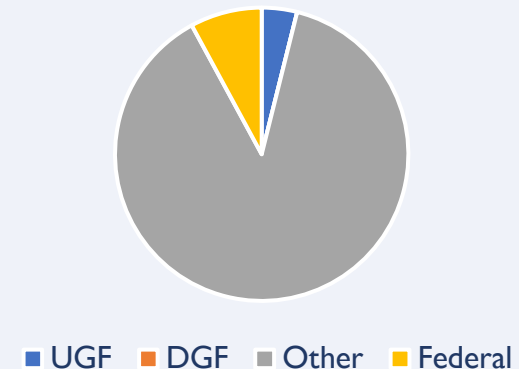
FY 2023 Authorized Budget

- 🦌 \$1.2 million
- 🦌 6 permanent full-time positions

Boards & Commissions

- 🦌 Pacific Salmon Commission
- 🦌 North Pacific Fishery Management Council
- 🦌 Alaska Boards of Fisheries and Game
- 🦌 Wide range of other Boards and Commissions

By Fund Source





Division of Commercial Fisheries

Contribution to Department Mission

Manage subsistence, commercial, & personal use fisheries

- in the interest of the economy and general well being of the citizens of the state
- consistent with the sustained yield principle
- subject to allocations through public regulatory processes



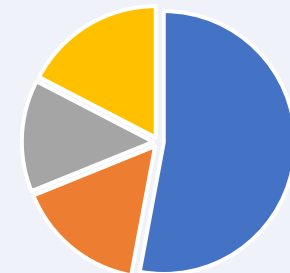
Core Services

Ensure the conservation of natural stocks of fish, shellfish and aquatic plants based on scientifically sound assessments

FY 2023 Authorized Budget

- \$82 million
- 301 permanent full-time positions
- 387 permanent part-time positions

By Fund Source



■ UGF ■ DGF ■ Other ■ Federal



Division of Commercial Fisheries

Major Fisheries

- Salmon
- Herring
- Shellfish
- Groundfish
- Dive Fisheries
- Personal Use/Subsistence Fisheries Management

Structure

- Houses 5 management regions
 - Southeast, Central, Westward, AYK, Statewide
- Houses two chief fisheries scientists
 - Salmon fisheries research
 - Genetics, Pathology, and Mark, Tag, & Age Laboratories
 - Groundfish and crab research
- Houses the federal fisheries coordination staff and Pacific Salmon Treaty Staff
- Houses statewide aquaculture planning and permitting



Division of Sport Fish

Contribution to Department Mission



Protect and improve the state's sport fishery resources

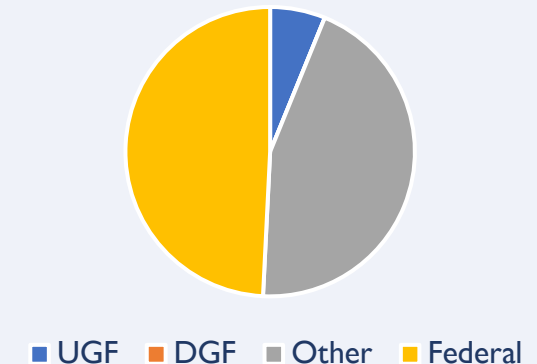
Core Services

- **Fisheries Management:** manage the state's sport fisheries for sustained yield and angler satisfaction
- **Fisheries Research:** perform objective-based research based on sound scientific practices to support sport fisheries management
- **Fisheries Enhancement:** create and diversify sport fishing opportunities for anglers
- **Fish Habitat:** protect and restore fish habitats for the benefit of fish and sport anglers
- **Communication & Outreach:** inform and communicate with the public about sport fishing
- **Internal Operations:** provide leadership and administrative support for the Division's core functions

FY 2023 Authorized Budget

- \$50.6 million
- 177 permanent full-time positions
- 128 permanent part-time positions

By Fund Source



Division of Sport Fish

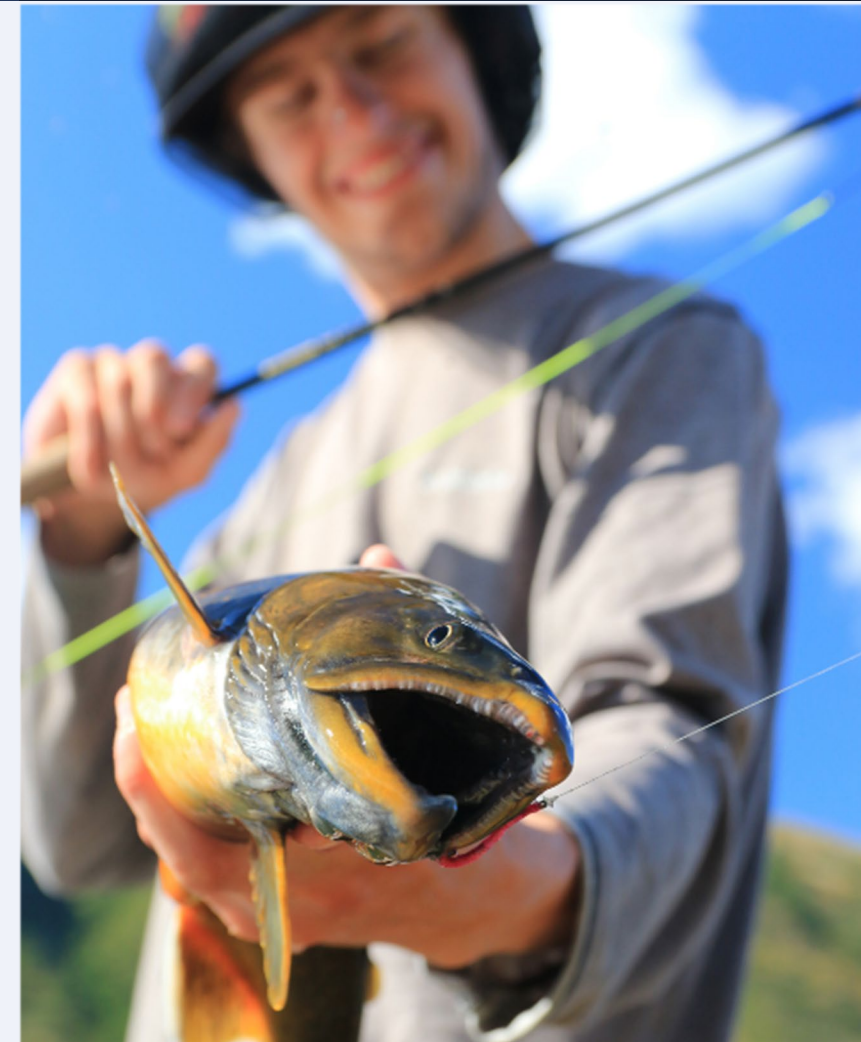


Major Fisheries

- Salmon
- Freshwater fisheries
- Groundfish
- Personal Use Fisheries

Structure

- Houses 3 management regions
 - Southeast, Southcentral, Interior
- Houses Sport Fish Hatchery Operations
- Houses one chief fisheries scientists
- Houses Department Invasive Species Program
- Houses Sport Fish Access Program





Division of Wildlife Conservation

Contribution to Department Mission






Conserve and enhance Alaska's wildlife and habitats Provide for a wide range of public uses and benefits

Core Services

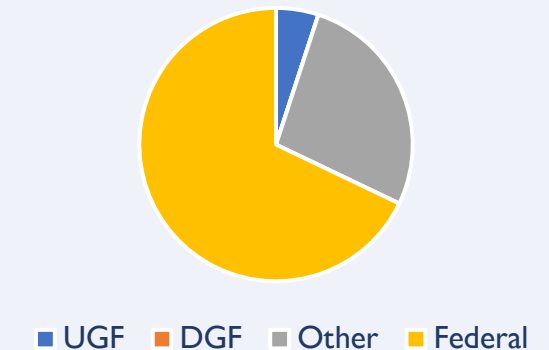
-  Maintain and enhance opportunities to hunt, trap, and view wildlife
-  Provide opportunities for Alaskans to gain knowledge of and appreciation for Alaska's wildlife, its management, and ways to safely and ethically interact with wildlife

FY 2023 Authorized Budget

-  \$63.7 million
-  231 permanent full-time positions
-  50 permanent part-time






By Fund Source



Division of Wildlife Conservation

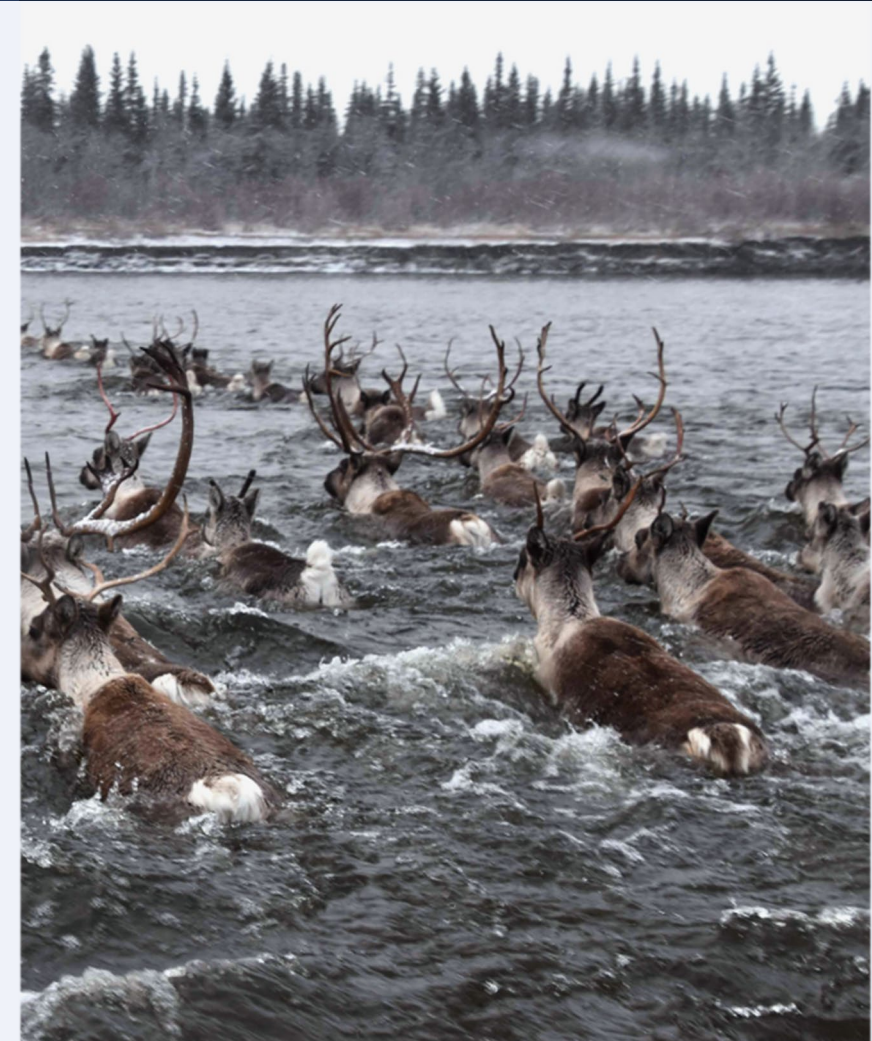


Major Activities

-  Management of hunting and trapping across the state
-  Management of Special Areas
-  Participation in Board of Game process

Structure

-  Houses 5 management regions
 -  Southeast, Southcentral, Interior/Northeast Arctic, Central/Southwest, Western/Northwest Arctic
-  Houses Department ANILCA/State Defense program
-  Houses Shooting Range Program
-  Houses Department Threatened, Endangered, and Diversity Program
-  Houses Department Marine Mammal Program
-  Houses one chief wildlife scientist



Habitat Section

Contribution to Department Mission

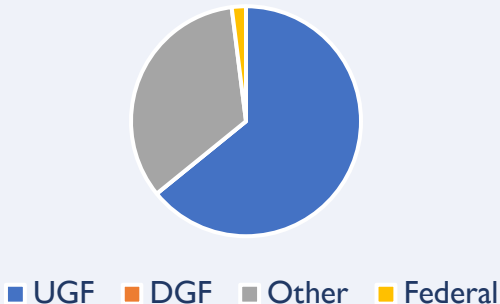


Conserve Alaska's valuable fish and wildlife resources and their habitats as Alaska's population and economy continue to expand

FY 2023 Authorized Budget

- ▲ \$5.7 million
- ▲ 37 permanent full-time positions
- ▲ 2 permanent part-time
- ▲ 1 non-permanent positions

By Fund Source



Core Services

- ▲ Review applications and issue permits for activities in fish-bearing waters and legislatively designated Special areas; provide expertise to protect important fish and wildlife habitat; monitor authorized projects and conduct compliance actions.
- ▲ Manage Alaska's Special Areas in accordance with legislative guidelines; prepare and update management plans for these areas.
- ▲ Review proposed timber harvest activities; conduct field inspections; work cooperatively with timber operators and other governmental agencies
- ▲ Review development projects (e.g., oil and gas, hard rock mining, hydroelectric) authorized under other agencies' authorities.
- ▲ Maintain and update the "Catalog of Waters Important for Spawning, Rearing, or Migration of Anadromous Fishes."
- ▲ Conduct applied research to develop methods and means to minimize impacts of development projects on fish and wildlife resources
- ▲ Seek opportunities to improve and protect habitat in cooperation with state and federal agencies, local governments, non-governmental organizations, and others.

Habitat Section



Major Activities

- ▲ Title 16 permitting
- ▲ Special Areas permitting
- ▲ Maintenance of the Anadromous Fish Catalog
- ▲ Involvement in the DNR Project Management and Permitting Program
- ▲ Pipeline Office Liaison

Structure

- ▲ Houses 3 management regions and 3 area offices
 - Southeast, Southcentral, Interior
 - Palmer, Kenai, Craig



Subsistence Research Section

Contribution to Department Mission

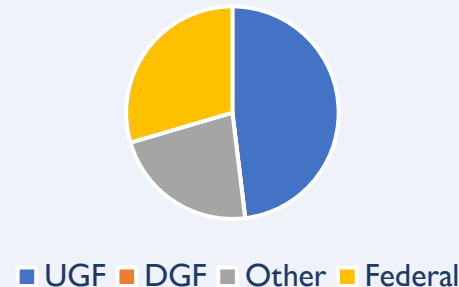


Scientifically gather, quantify, evaluate, and report information about customary and traditional uses of Alaska's fish and wildlife resources

FY 2023 Authorized Budget

- ✦ \$6.1 million
- ✦ 19 permanent full-time positions
- ✦ 22 permanent part-time
- ✦ 2 non-permanent positions

By Fund Source



Core Services

- ✦ Compile and analyze existing data; conduct research to gather information on the role of hunting and fishing by Alaskans for customary and traditional uses.
- ✦ Disseminate current subsistence use information to the public; appropriate agencies and organizations; and fisheries and wildlife management divisions.
- ✦ Assist the Board of Fisheries, the Board of Game, and the Joint Board of Fisheries and Game to evaluate customary and traditional uses of Alaska's fish and wildlife resources and amounts reasonably necessary for subsistence uses (ANS) of those resources.
- ✦ Assist fisheries and wildlife managers in preparing management plans to ensure information on customary and traditional uses and fish and wildlife harvests is incorporated.

Subsistence Research Section



Major Activities

- ✦ Collection of Subsistence Use Information
- ✦ Participation in the Board process

Structure

- ✦ Houses 2 management regions
 - Southern and Northern
- ✦ Houses statewide program manager position overseeing research activities



Boards Support Section

Contribution to Department Mission



Facilitates an effective board and public process for the state's fish and wildlife regulatory system

Core Services

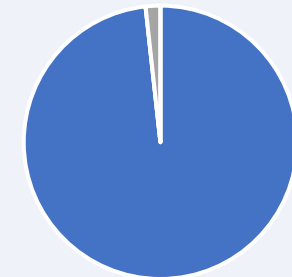
- ✦ Ensure citizens participating in the fish and game regulatory process have clear and helpful information in advance to engage effectively
- ✦ Provide and support an environment for board members to make effective decisions

FY 2023 Authorized Budget

- ✦ \$1.2 million
- ✦ 6 permanent full-time positions



By Fund Source



■ UGF ■ DGF ■ Other ■ Federal

Boards Support Section



Major Activities

- ✦ Support of the Boards of Fisheries and Game process
- ✦ Includes 7– 10 in-person, multi-day regulatory meetings.
- ✦ Very involved, open public process

Structure

- ✦ Houses 2 executive directors
 - 1 Board of Game (BOG)
 - 1 Board of Fisheries (BOF)
- ✦ 2 administrative positions
- ✦ 2 publication specialists



Advisory Committee Support Section



Core Services

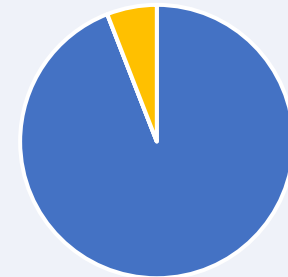
- ✦ Ensure citizens participating in the fish and game regulatory process have clear and helpful information in advance to engage effectively
- ✦ Provide and support an environment for board members to make effective decisions



FY 2023 Authorized Budget

- ✦ \$0.6 million
- ✦ 0 permanent full-time positions
- ✦ 5 permanent part-time positions

By Fund Source



■ UGF ■ DGF ■ Other ■ Federal

Administrative Services Section

Contribution to Department Mission



Provide efficient, cost-effective and customer oriented administrative services to department programs

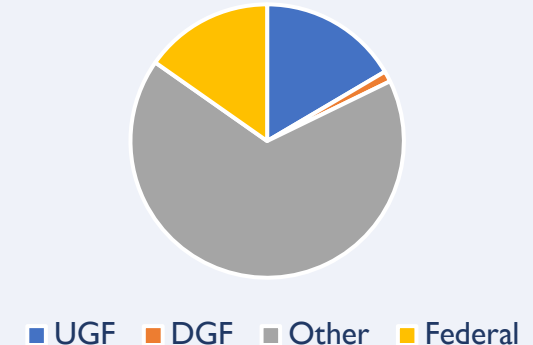
Core Services

- Centralized administrative support services to programs and projects conducted by the ADF&G, including accounting, fiscal management, procurement, property control, contract administration, budget services, information technology services, capital construction, facility maintenance and repair, office space planning, and workforce development
- Administration of the fish and game licensing program
- Provides direct administrative support to the other components in the Administration and the Commissioner's Office

FY 2023 Authorized Budget

- \$14.7million
- 39 permanent full-time positions
- 4 permanent part-time positions
- 2 non-permanent positions

By Fund Source



Last Year



The Department worked to ensure we had the necessary research and management infrastructure in place to safely conduct fisheries and hunts

- ✓ We continued to provide a return on investment of over \$12.5 billion dollars on a GF investment of about \$65 million.
- ✓ Involved in numerous lawsuits defending the state right to manage our resources.
- ✓ With some exceptions, commercial fisheries across Alaska were conducted according to sustained yield principles, allowing commercial fishermen to fish their permits and thereby make a living and contribute to the state and local economies through collected fish taxes.
- ✓ Sport and personal use fisheries operated, allowing anglers an opportunity to fill their freezers, feed their families, and get outside.
- ✓ With some exceptions, subsistence fisheries and hunts occurred, allowing subsistence harvesters opportunities to feed their communities and pass on traditions.

Last Year Continued...



- ✓ Hunts occurred throughout Alaska giving Alaskans opportunities to hunt, fill their freezers and pass on traditions.
- ✓ Charter fishing and guided hunting operated, providing needed recreational opportunities and economic boosts to the state and local economies.
- ✓ Area offices remained open to serve the public.
- ✓ BOG and BOF and many local fish and game advisory committees resumed in-person meetings.
- ✓ We continue to permit important projects in a timely manner to Alaska while conserving fish habitat that are vital to the conservation of our fish populations and the economy of the state.
- ✓ ADF&G mobile application developed to improve services for people who hunt and fish in Alaska went live. The mobile app is available as a free download from the Android and Apple App stores.

Issues/Concerns



- **Federal intrusion into state management authority**
- **Reduced marine survivals of salmon and crab resulting in restricted or closed fisheries**
- **Intercept and Bycatch**
- **Poor winter survival affecting big game populations**
- **Food Security**
- **Urban wildlife management issues**
- **Impacts associated with implementation of the Endangered Species Act and the Marine Mammal Protection Act**
- **Recruitment and retention issues**



Questions?



THANK YOU!

[Home Page, Alaska Department of Fish and Game \(adfg.alaska.gov\)](http://adfg.alaska.gov)