



THE STATE  
of **ALASKA**  
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

## Department of Fish and Game

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March 17, 2023

The Honorable DeLena Johnson  
House Finance Committee, Co-Chair  
Alaska State Legislature  
State Capitol, Rooms 505  
Juneau, AK 99801

The Honorable Neal Foster  
House Finance Committee, Co-Chair  
Alaska State Legislature  
State Capitol, Room 511  
Juneau, AK 99801

The Honorable Bryce Edgmon  
House Finance Committee, Co-Chair  
Alaska State Legislature  
State Capitol, Room 410  
Juneau, AK 99801

Re: FY2024 Budget Overview

Dear Co-Chairs Johnson, Edgmon, and Foster:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide supplemental information on the Alaska Department of Fish & Game's (ADF&G) FY2024 Operating Budget overview to the House Finance Committee on March 2, 2023. Please find the requests and corresponding responses below.

### **1. What happened to the PCNs for the Habitat and Subsistence Directors?**

In FY2020, the State's fiscal reality resulted in reductions to expenditures across agencies. Both the Habitat and Subsistence Division Director positions were vacant and no longer necessary as the divisions were being managed by the deputy commissioner and commissioner, respectively. The elimination of the director positions and associated costs resulted in a reduction of \$202,700 (UGF) for the Habitat Division Director and \$195,600 (UGF) for the Subsistence Division Director, totaling \$398,300. To restore the director positions, the department would need the additional funding associated with those PCNs and added cost related to the passage of HB226 (2022). Otherwise, the department would need to severely cut essential projects and programs within those sections.

## **2. Explain the drop in non-permanent PCNs.**

The department stopped budgeting for intern positions (high school, college, and graduate). The department still utilizes interns; however, we now only budget for long-term non-permanent PCNs that are needed for more than two years.

## **3. Eklutna Hatchery update.**

The Eklutna Salmon Hatchery (ESH) was constructed and is owned and operated by the Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association (CIAA). The private nonprofit hatchery was operational from 1981 through 1998, and fish production has been suspended since 1998. However, the hatchery currently serves as a temporary rearing facility for sockeye and coho smolts during the water shortages at the Trail Lakes Hatchery. The facility is also used by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) to imprint and release Chinook and coho salmon smolt prior to release to the Eklutna Tailrace. More information on ESH can be found on CIAA's website and hatcheries related reports can be found on ADF&G's website:

- [Hatcheries | Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association \(ciaanet.org\)](https://ciaanet.org)
- [Other Reports, Hatcheries – Fishing, Alaska Department of Fish and Game](#)

## **4. What is the current Fish & Game Fund Balance?**

Attachment 1 shows the current balance of the Fish & Game Fund (FGF). The balance is \$43,070,500, and the estimated end of year balance for FY2023 is \$37,461,400. It is important that the balance of the fund is sufficient to match incoming Dingell-Johnson (DJ) and Pittman-Robertson (PR) funding since the federal and state fiscal years do not align. If there is not a sufficient balance, ADF&G cannot match incoming federal apportionments. Additionally, a baseline for a sustainable fund balance equals 25% of the average prior 3 years of revenues. This baseline is also important to cover any potential revenue shortfalls like what was experienced during the COVID-19 pandemic.

FGF was created before statehood and is one of the few dedicated funds within the limits set by Article IX, Section 7, of the Alaska Constitution. Money from the fund is constitutionally prohibited from being spent on another purpose. The Alaska Constitution generally prohibits dedicated funds, but there is an allowance for participation in federal programs, such as DJ and PR funding and use for match money. FGF qualifies under this exemption.

Not all money that goes into the fund is required by federal law. Money appropriated from the fund has been used by the ADF&G for purposes of Title 16. Per AS 16.05.100, the FGF is to be used exclusively to carry out the purposes and provisions of AS 16.05 – .45 and 16.55 or other duties that may be delegated by the legislature to the commissioner or ADF&G.

## **5. What travel was cut for Habitat? Provide comparison of pre-cut numbers to current FY2024 request amount.**

Travel funding for the then Habitat Division (now Habitat Section) was cut in the FY2018 budget from \$296,500 to \$96,500. Under the FY2024 proposed budget, the Habitat Section's funding for travel would increase to \$155,800. This increase was identified as the amount necessary to cover the section's needs to carry out routine site visits before, during and after permitted activities take place as well as any

visits necessary to address third party complaints. This funding will also provide for staff training without sacrificing what is needed to properly conduct site visits.

I hope you find this information to be useful. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have further questions.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Lang", written in a cursive style.

Doug Vincent-Lang  
Commissioner

Enclosure (1)

Cc: Laura Stidolph, Legislative Director, Office of the Governor

**Annual Account Analysis Report of  
ADF&G Portions of Fish and Game Fund  
(Stated in Thousands)**

**All ADF&G - Funds 1024 & 3233**

		FY2023	FY2023	FY2022	FY2021
	Division	Estimates	Actuals	Actuals	Actuals
<b>REVENUES</b>					
License Sales	SF/WC	32,800.0	21,171.0	33,683.4	26,351.4
Commercial Crewmember License Sales	CF	-	-	-	-
Permit Sales	SF/WC	3,105.0	2,307.9	3,224.4	3,512.4
Boating and Angling Fees collected by DNR/Parks	SF	600.0	418.0	589.6	408.9
Civil Fines, Penalties, Forfeitures, & Judgments	SF/WC/CF	108.0	45.6	116.9	70.7
Interest and Investment Income	SF/WC/CF	402.6	821.2	(627.6)	19.0
Other Revenues	SF/WC/CF	1,283.0	353.7	1,381.8	4,497.7
Total Revenues		<u>38,298.6</u>	<u>25,117.4</u>	<u>38,368.5</u>	<u>34,860.1</u>

**EXPENDITURES**

**Operating Expenditures**

Sport Fish	SF	18,300.0	9,688.8	16,193.7	16,203.0
Wildlife Conservation	WC	15,175.5	6,912.6	12,370.4	10,767.6
Commercial Fisheries	CF	271.8	27.6	176.8	159.4
Commercial Crewmember License Administration	CF	-	-	-	-
Retained Sales Commissions	SF/WC	595.5	-	595.5	580.9
Total Operating Expenditures		<u>34,342.8</u>	<u>16,629.0</u>	<u>29,336.4</u>	<u>27,710.9</u>

Capital Expenditures				FY2023	Unspent & Unreserved FGF Authority	FY2023	FY2022	FY2021
SLA APPR	APGRP	APPR Name	Division	Estimates		Actuals	Actuals	Actuals
Chapter SLA 2022								
110223024	F2RA	SF Recreational Boating and Angler Access	SF	-	750.0	-	-	-
110522324	F5GS	Statewide Wildlife Game Surveys	WC	1,000.0	4,000.0	-	-	-
110522224	F5MR	Wildlife Management and Research	WC	354.5	2,000.0	-	-	-
Chapter SLA 2021								
110221024	F2RR	SF Recreational Boating and Angler Access	SF	-	750.0	-	-	-
110222024	F2LF	Copper River Boat Launch Facilities Improvement	SF	-	11.3	-	153.7	-
112220024	F2RQ	SF Recreational Boating and Angler Access	SF	-	750.0	-	-	-
110522124	F5WO	Wildlife Management, Research and Hunting Access	WC	-	50.0	-	-	-
Chapter 3 SLA 2019								
110220024	F2RP	SF Recreational Boating and Angler Access	SF	-	59.4	18.0	-	-
		SF Hatchery Facility Upgrades and Improvements - William						
110272024	F2WR	Jack Hernandez and Ruth Bennett	SF	100.0	1,421.3	-	-	-
115200024	F5WN	Wildlife Management, Research and Hunting Access	WC	10.0	648.3	38.2	43.8	50.4
Chapter 19 SLA 2018								
110219024	F2CL	SF Hatchery Facility Upgrades and Improvements - Crystal Lake	SF	100.0	1,500.0	-	-	-
112190024	F2RO	SF Recreational Boating and Angler Access	SF	-	0.2	-	5.5	744.2
113190024	F1FO	Vessels & Aircraft Maintenance Repair & Upgrade	WC	16.7	16.7	-	10.5	49.5
111190033	F1FO	Vessels & Aircraft Maintenance Repair & Upgrade	CF	-	-	-	4.5	-
115190024	F5WM	Wildlife Mgt Research and Hunting Access Sppt	WC	44.3	288.9	479.1	302.8	185.3
Chapter 1 SLA 2017								
115170024	F5WX	Wildlife Mgt Research and Hunting Access Sppt	WC	74.5	166.5	80.1	179.7	373.7
112180024	F2RN	SF Recreational Boating and Angler Access	SF	-	-	-	-	-
Chapter 24 SLA 2017								
112170024	F2RK	SF Recreational Boating & Angler Access	SF	-	7.5	3.4	49.2	57.0
Chapter 17 SLA 2012								
114359524/ 43687	F2RT	SF Recreational Boating Access	SF	-	72.9	4.7	20.5	59.7
Chapter 5 FSSLA 2011								
114359524/ 43663	F2RT	SF Recreational Boating Access	SF	-	60.3	-	-	37.2
Chapter 43 SLA 2010								
114363824/ 43638	F5WR	Economic Contribution of Wildlife to AK	WC	-	30.0	-	-	-
114359524/ 43648	F2RT	SF Recreational Boating Access	SF	-	4.1	-	-	-
Chapter 15 SLA 2009								
114359524/ 43621	F2RT	SF Recreational Boating Access	SF	-	-	-	-	-
Chapter 139 SLA 1998								
114337524/ 43375	F5JY	Juneau Indoor Shooting Range	WC	-	14.9	-	-	-
43378		Hunter Information and Training Project	WC	-	-	-	-	-
43382	F2NY	Non-boating SF Angler Access Projects	SF	-	-	-	-	-
Total Capital Expenditures				<u>1,700.0</u>	<u>12,602.3</u>	<u>623.5</u>	<u>770.2</u>	<u>1,557.0</u>
Total Expenditures				<u>36,042.8</u>		<u>17,252.5</u>	<u>30,106.6</u>	<u>29,267.9</u>
Net Change in Account Balances				2,255.8		7,864.9	8,261.9	5,592.2
Total Account Balances - Beginning of Year				<u>35,205.6</u>		<u>35,205.6</u>	<u>26,943.7</u>	<u>21,351.5</u>
Total Account Balances - End of Year				<u>37,461.4</u>		<u>43,070.5</u>	<u>35,205.6</u>	<u>26,943.7</u>
Total Account Balances - End of Year - Fish and Game Fund Analysis						<u>43,070.5</u>	<u>35,205.6</u>	<u>26,943.7</u>