



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR MIKE DUNLEAVY

Department of Fish and Game

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February 3, 2023

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

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

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

Re: Overview: Capital Budget – Department of Fish and Game Questions

Dear House Finance Co-Chairs:

Thank you for the opportunity to address questions raised on the Department of Fish and Game's budget during the Capital Budget Overview to the House Finance Committee on January 30, 2023. Please find the questions and corresponding responses below.

1. Please explain why the Capital Arctic Fisheries request is necessary.

In short, the Arctic is warming and, with this opportunity, is opening for fisheries. While there is currently a moratorium in place for fisheries, this will expire in 4-5 years. It is clear that other jurisdictions will likely begin fishing operations once the moratorium expires. Alaska needs to be prepared for the end of the moratorium by having match money to develop stock assessments as a sustainable fisheries management plan. Otherwise, these fisheries will be developed without Alaska's involvement.

2. What research projects are in the Operating or Capital budgets for the fisheries issues in the Yukon Kuskokwim?

- Norton Sound crab monitoring and research
- Yukon River sonar extensions
- Norton Sounds Red King Crab survey

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", with a stylized, cursive script.

Doug Vincent-Lang
Commissioner

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