

Research Vessel Montague Replacement**FY2003 Request: \$600,000****Reference No: 35884****AP/AL:** Appropriation**Project Type:** Renewal and Replacement**Category:** Natural Resources**Location:** Cordova**Contact:** Doug Mecum**House District:** Delta, Prince William Sound (HD**Contact Phone:** (907)465-4210

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Estimated Project Dates: 07/01/2002 - 06/30/2005**Brief Summary and Statement of Need:**

This CIP request will provide funding to replace the R/V Montague. This vessel fulfills research needs in the waters of Prince William Sound that are vital to the conservation-based management of salmon, herring, sablefish, pollock, shrimp and crab resources. Stability testing of the R/V Montague conducted in 1988 indicated the vessel was operating on a thin margin of safety. Significant changes in weight distribution and operational loading improved the safety margin, but compromised its ability to perform some of its necessary duties. This request will support the purchase of a new vessel, combined with the language authority to use the proceeds from the sale of the R/V Montague towards the purchase price.

Funding:	<u>FY2003</u>	<u>FY2004</u>	<u>FY2005</u>	<u>FY2006</u>	<u>FY2007</u>	<u>FY2008</u>	<u>Total</u>
Gen Fund	\$600,000						\$600,000
Total:	\$600,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$600,000

<input type="checkbox"/> State Match Required	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> One-Time Project	<input type="checkbox"/> Phased - new	<input type="checkbox"/> Phased - underway	<input type="checkbox"/> On-Going
0% = Minimum State Match % Required		<input type="checkbox"/> Amendment	<input type="checkbox"/> Mental Health Bill	

Operating & Maintenance Costs:

	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Staff</u>
Project Development:	0	0
Ongoing Operating:	0	0
One-Time Startup:	0	
Totals:	0	0

Additional Information / Prior Funding History:**Project Description/Justification:**

Replacement of the R/V Montague, research vessel stationed in Cordova, is urgently needed. This vessel fulfills numerous research needs in the waters of Prince William Sound that are vital to the conservation based management of salmon, herring, sablefish, pollock, shrimp and crab resources. The R/V Montague is a 58 foot purse seine vessel constructed in 1968. Stability testing of the R/V Montague conducted in 1988 indicated the vessel was operating on a very thin margin of safety. Significant changes in weight distribution and operational loading improved the safety margin, but compromised its ability to perform some of its necessary duties. In 1998-99 the R/V Montague was re-powered. Despite extensive consideration of stability in planning this job, the Montague ended up losing 10 to 15% of its stability margin, resulting in further limitations of its utility.

A replacement vessel is needed that would have 1) expanded capacity to house scientific crews in quarters above the waterline, 2) ability to perform test fishing operations using purse seines, long lines, pots, trawls and dredges, and 3) a fish hold with refrigerated circulation system and capacity to carry volumes of fish consistent with the sampling programs.

Accompanying language in the appropriation bill would allow the proceeds from the sale of this vessel to be used in conjunction with this funding for a replacement vessel.

