

**State of Alaska**  
**FY2004 Governor's Operating Budget**

**Department of Fish and Game**  
**AYK Region Fisheries Management**  
**Component Budget Summary**

## **Component: AYK Region Fisheries Management**

**Contact: Robert D. Mecum, Division Director**

**Tel:** (907) 465-4210 **Fax:** (907) 465-2604 **E-mail:** doug\_mecum@fishgame.state.ak.us

### **Component Mission**

The mission of the Division of Commercial Fisheries is to manage, protect, rehabilitate, enhance, and develop fisheries and aquatic plant resources in the interest of the economy, consistent with the sustained yield principle and subject to allocations through public regulatory processes.

### **Component Services Provided**

The fisheries managed by the Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim (AYK) Region are composed of a complex and vast array of fish species, geographical locations, fishing gear, types of users and uses of the resource. Within the AYK Region, aquatic species that are harvested in subsistence, commercial, and personal use fisheries include: five species of salmon, herring, king crab and a number of miscellaneous shellfish, groundfish and freshwater fish species. There are approximately nine different types of gear normally used in the region's fisheries. Some fish are harvested for multiple uses and have separate fisheries. For example, herring are harvested for sac-roe, roe-on-kelp, human food and bait. This mix results in a large number of distinct fisheries that are managed as separate entities. Since the fisheries are numerous and complex, the management systems are often complex. Following are some of the tasks carried out by the region in providing its management services:

- Development of management plans. The public and the Board of Fisheries are part of this process.
- Development of strategic research plans. This is a collaborative approach involving public stakeholders, federal agencies, and the state.
- Collection of resource information, such as life histories, abundance, and distribution.
- Collection of information, such as harvest by gear type, species, stock and location, number of units of gear fished, time fished, and fleet dynamics.
- Determination of reproductive needs, which includes escapement goals, and growth to maximize production, and from there, determination of allowable harvest.
- Manipulation of the fisheries inseason by time and area to achieve escapement and associated harvest goals.
- Dissemination of information to the public. This includes fisheries information, regulations, harvest policies, management plans, as well as highly technical reports based on the results of applied research programs.
- Operation of the region's four year-round offices, about 30 data collection field camps and four field offices.

### **Component Goals and Strategies**

The goals and strategies of the AYK Region are to optimize, over the long term, the harvest of aquatic species by those commercial, subsistence, and personal use fisheries over which the region has management authority. Optimal production will provide for an economically healthy industry and produce an environment conducive to the development of new fisheries, as well as provide for traditional individual consumptive needs through subsistence and personal use fisheries.

### **Key Component Issues for FY2003 – 2004**

Resolution of federal subsistence fishery management implications and potential impacts across the region will require continued extensive involvement of regional and area staff and fiscal resources throughout FY2003 and into FY2004. Additionally, state/federal dual management and the associated necessary cooperation with the federal subsistence staff continues to place an additional burden on staff.

During the past five years, the productivity of nearly all AYK salmon stocks has markedly decreased, resulting in a dramatic reduction in the total number of fish available for harvest. Accordingly, extensive fishery restrictions have been implemented for resource conservation purposes. This has had a profound impact on the public stakeholders, and the economy of the region as well as ADF&G staff.

Strategic research plans are being developed or updated in all areas of AYK. Implementation of the projects associated with these plans will allow for more efficient management of the fish resources of the AYK Region in the future. After plans are developed, there is a need to update them on a continuing basis.

Many AYK salmon and herring commercial fisheries have experienced a dramatic downturn in market demand and price because of record world salmon production levels and changing consumer demand for fisheries products. During FY2002 some AYK salmon stocks appeared to be in the process of recovering from the production failure of recent years, resulting in some small surpluses being available for harvest. However, a vast majority of the available chum salmon surpluses were not harvested in AYK because of extremely poor market conditions. This has resulted in continued adjustments of management strategy to meet competitive market windows and higher product quality requirements. Because of these factors, AYK staff have recently been cooperating with the public to develop innovative ways of managing and prosecuting these fisheries to maximize the value of the fishery to the fishers. These concerns are projected to continue during FY2004 and into the future.

### **Major Component Accomplishments in 2002**

The AYK Region continues to develop and refine fisheries management plans and harvest management strategies to provide for the sustained yield of fisheries resources. Area-specific strategic research planning was initiated in FY2001 and has continued to be developed for all areas of AYK. Additionally, in conjunction with federal agencies and regional organizations, an umbrella strategic research plan is currently being developed for all of AYK Region through the AYK Sustainable Salmon Initiative (AYK-SSI). All these research plans are anticipated to be completed during FY2004. Further, scientifically based and defensible salmon escapement goals have and are currently being established for a number of salmon stocks within the AYK Region.

Management plans in the AYK Region, which supports the largest subsistence salmon fisheries in the world, include provisions for ensuring priority for the opportunity to conduct customary and traditional subsistence fisheries uses.

AYK Region staff provides accurate assessment and documentation of harvests, including species, numbers, location, time, gear and units of effort. These data are compiled annually and appended to historic commercial fisheries databases. In addition, subsistence fisheries harvests are monitored through post-season surveys and inseason permitting processes.

AYK Region staff continues to be proactive in working with the public to develop and initiate cooperative fisheries resource assessment programs and more interactive, participatory management programs. Additionally, the Norton Sound Salmon Initiative and the AYK SSI, two federally funded collaborative salmon research programs, have provided much needed salmon research money to the AYK Region. AYK Region staff are members of the steering committees and scientific technical committees associated with these two salmon research initiatives. Other committee members include representatives from regional organizations and federal agencies.

AYK Region staff has initiated new fisheries resource assessment and monitoring programs to improve the responsiveness of management to industry and community needs for timely, accurate fisheries data.

AYK management and research staff participated in the Alaska Board of Fisheries process, Federal Subsistence Board/Regional Council process and U.S./Canada Yukon River Salmon Treaty process. Reports and fisheries data analyses were prepared to address fisheries management and conservation issues and concerns associated with these resource management processes.

Fisheries information was routinely provided to industry, resource users, federal agencies, regional organizations and the public at large through personal staff contacts, news releases, inseason teleconferencing with users and user groups,

distribution of reports and electronic media.

### **Statutory and Regulatory Authority**

AS 16 Fish and Game  
5 AAC

**AYK Region Fisheries Management**  
**Component Financial Summary**

*All dollars in thousands*

	<b>FY2002 Actuals</b>	<b>FY2003 Authorized</b>	<b>FY2004 Governor</b>
<b>Non-Formula Program:</b>			
<b>Component Expenditures:</b>			
71000 Personal Services	2,762.7	3,088.9	2,857.3
72000 Travel	190.2	157.1	197.1
73000 Contractual	628.8	706.5	521.5
74000 Supplies	454.3	292.6	328.9
75000 Equipment	55.2	36.5	36.5
76000 Land/Buildings	0.0	0.0	0.0
77000 Grants, Claims	0.0	0.0	0.0
78000 Miscellaneous	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>Expenditure Totals</b>	<b>4,091.2</b>	<b>4,281.6</b>	<b>3,941.3</b>
<b>Funding Sources:</b>			
1004 General Fund Receipts	4,053.7	4,112.4	3,906.8
1109 Test Fisheries Receipts	37.5	169.2	34.5
<b>Funding Totals</b>	<b>4,091.2</b>	<b>4,281.6</b>	<b>3,941.3</b>

**AYK Region Fisheries Management**

**Proposed Changes in Levels of Service for FY2004**

See Proposed Changes in Levels of Service for FY2004 in the Commercial Fisheries BRU narrative.

**Summary of Component Budget Changes**

**From FY2003 Authorized to FY2004 Governor**

*All dollars in thousands*

	<u>General Funds</u>	<u>Federal Funds</u>	<u>Other Funds</u>	<u>Total Funds</u>
<b>FY2003 Authorized</b>	<b>4,112.4</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>169.2</b>	<b>4,281.6</b>
<b>Adjustments which will continue current level of service:</b>				
-Annualize FY2003 COLA Increase for General Government and Supervisory Bargaining Units	0.0	0.0	0.3	0.3
<b>Proposed budget decreases:</b>				
-Decrement Test Fish Authority	0.0	0.0	-135.0	-135.0
-Decrement General Fund	-205.6	0.0	0.0	-205.6
<b>FY2004 Governor</b>	<b>3,906.8</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>34.5</b>	<b>3,941.3</b>

**AYK Region Fisheries Management**

**Personal Services Information**

	Authorized Positions		Personal Services Costs	
	<u>FY2003</u> <u>Authorized</u>	<u>FY2004</u> <u>Governor</u>		
Full-time	28	28	Annual Salaries	2,154,927
Part-time	67	68	Premium Pay	56,580
Nonpermanent	5	5	Annual Benefits	780,013
			<i>Less 4.49% Vacancy Factor</i>	(134,220)
			Lump Sum Premium Pay	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>Total Personal Services</b>	<b>2,857,300</b>

**Position Classification Summary**

Job Class Title	Anchorage	Fairbanks	Juneau	Others	Total
Administrative Clerk III	0	0	0	1	1
Analyst/Programmer III	1	0	0	0	1
Analyst/Programmer IV	1	0	0	0	1
Biometrician III	1	0	0	0	1
F&G Regional Spvr	1	0	0	0	1
F&W Technician I	0	0	0	2	2
F&W Technician II	1	4	0	39	44
F&W Technician III	0	0	0	11	11
Fish & Game Program Tech	0	1	0	1	2
Fishery Biologist I	2	2	0	10	14
Fishery Biologist II	5	1	0	5	11
Fishery Biologist III	3	3	0	3	9
Fishery Biologist IV	3	0	0	0	3
<b>Totals</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>101</b>