

**State of Alaska  
FY2005 Governor's Operating Budget**

**Department of Fish and Game  
Commercial Fisheries  
Results Delivery Unit Budget Summary**

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## Commercial Fisheries Results Delivery Unit

### Contribution to Department's 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.

### Core Services

- **Stock Assessment & Applied Research:** Maintain ongoing programs for the enumeration, assessment, and understanding of salmon, herring, groundfish, and shellfish stocks.
- **Harvest Management:** Control the harvest of fishery resources for subsistence, commercial, and personal uses according to plans and regulations.
- **Laboratory Services:** Operate three fisheries laboratories, for genetic identification, fish pathology, and aging/tagging research.
- **Aquaculture Permitting:** Permit and provide regulatory, technical, and planning services to aquatic farmers and private nonprofit hatchery operators.
- **Data Processing:** Develop and maintain electronic databases containing historic catch and production data, escapement, and other stock status information.
- **Information Services and Public Participation:** Develop, maintain and disseminate data, analyses, and published reports.

End Results	Strategies to Achieve Results
<p><b>(1) Stable or increasing economic benefits derived from the harvest and use of fish, shellfish, and aquatic plants in Alaska.</b></p> <p><u>Target:</u> Annual ex-vessel value of Alaska commercial fisheries production should exceed \$1 billion. <u>Measure:</u> Total annual ex-vessel value of commercial harvests of salmon, herring, groundfish, shellfish, and aquatic plants.</p> <p><u>Target:</u> Annual subsistence needs for fish, shellfish and aquatic plants should be met in 80% of those households in Alaska that participate in subsistence hunting and fishing. <u>Measure:</u> Proportion of households surveyed that have met their annual subsistence needs for fish, shellfish, and aquatic plants.</p> <p><u>Target:</u> Annual value of aquatic shellfish farming production should increase by 5% per year <u>Measure:</u> Percent increase from previous year of shellfish sales from permitted aquatic farms.</p> <p><b>(2) Optimized public participation in the utilization of fish, shellfish, and aquatic plants and in the regulatory process used to control those uses.</b></p>	<p><b>(1) Ensure the conservation of natural stocks of fish, shellfish and aquatic plants based on scientifically sound assessments.</b></p> <p><u>Target:</u> Establish annual escapement goals for all salmon stocks that are subject to harvest. <u>Measure:</u> Proportion of harvested salmon stocks that have annual escapement goals identified.</p> <p><u>Target:</u> Determine minimum spawning biomass or other baseline biological reference points for herring, groundfish, and shellfish stocks harvested in commercial fisheries. <u>Measure:</u> Proportion of harvested herring, groundfish, and shellfish stocks that have baseline biological reference points determined.</p> <p><b>(2) Sustain fisheries on stocks of fish, shellfish and aquatic plants based upon the control and regulation of harvests through responsive management systems.</b></p> <p><u>Target:</u> Allow full commercial and subsistence harvest of annual surpluses of salmon stocks while achieving at least 80% of all annual escapement goals. <u>Measure:</u> Proportion of salmon stocks harvested; proportion of annual salmon escapement goals achieved.</p> <p><u>Target:</u> Achieve annual harvest objectives (plus or minus</p>

End Results	Strategies to Achieve Results
<p><u>Target:</u> For commercial fishing and processing employees, earnings should provide a living wage. <u>Measure:</u> Economic rents for operations in various fishery sectors and average and range of wages of employees in each sector compared to costs of living.</p> <p><u>Target:</u> For subsistence and personal use fisheries, public satisfaction with harvest opportunities should exceed eighty percent. <u>Measure:</u> Survey results of the approval and satisfaction of subsistence households and personal use fishermen.</p> <p><u>Target:</u> Regulatory forums of the Alaska Board of Fisheries, the NPFMC, the International Pacific Halibut Commission, the Pacific Salmon Commission and other agencies and agreements, should be fluid and responsive to public participation and proposals. <u>Measure:</u> Proportion of submitted public proposals that are effectively addressed within each forum annually.</p> <p><b>(3) Improved public awareness of factors affecting the status of fish, shellfish and aquatic plants as well as influences on sustained yield of these resources.</b></p> <p><u>Target:</u> Seventy-five percent of Alaskan public express confidence in management of Alaska's subsistence, commercial, and personal use fisheries. <u>Measure:</u> Questionnaire on division web site regarding the attitudes of Alaskans toward fisheries management.</p> <p><u>Target:</u> Continue or expand third party certification of the sustainability and sound management of Alaska's commercial fisheries. <u>Measure:</u> Independent third party certification of the sustainability and soundness of the management of Alaska's commercial fisheries.</p> <p><u>Target:</u> Increase by 5% visits to division web pages compared to prior three year average. <u>Measure:</u> Increases in utilization of division web site.</p>	<p>20%) for all herring, groundfish, and shellfish stocks that are commercially exploited. <u>Measure:</u> Proportion of commercially exploited herring, groundfish, and shellfish stocks that have harvest objectives achieved (within plus or minus 20%).</p> <p><b>(3) Increase fishery harvests and harvest opportunities of fish, shellfish and aquatic plants through the investigation of maximum sustained yield for individual and aggregate populations.</b></p> <p><u>Target:</u> Every three years, establish new or revised biological escapement goals predicated on achieving maximum sustainable yield for five percent of all salmon stocks that are commercially harvested. <u>Measure:</u> Proportion of harvested salmon stocks that have new or revised biological escapement goals identified that are calculated to achieve maximum sustainable yield.</p> <p><u>Target:</u> Determine, through spawner-recruit analysis, yield per recruit analysis or other appropriate estimation, biological reference points that will allow for the maximum sustainable yield from all finfish and shellfish stocks harvested in commercial fisheries. <u>Measure:</u> Proportion of harvested finfish, and shellfish stocks that have biological reference points determined that would allow for achievement of maximum sustainable yield.</p> <p><b>(4) Expand fishery potential through identification of underutilized species/stocks of fish, shellfish and aquatic plants.</b></p> <p><u>Target:</u> Determine basic harvest guidelines for eighty percent of all underutilized species/stock groups identified annually by the department in consultation with private industry. <u>Measure:</u> Proportion of public requests for new fisheries that have basic harvest guidelines determined.</p> <p><u>Target:</u> Annually approve the operation of all existing salmon non-profit hatchery operations in Alaska, with appropriate safeguards for wild stocks. <u>Measure:</u> Proportion of existing non-profit salmon hatchery operations approved with appropriate safeguards for wild stocks.</p> <p><u>Target:</u> Annually approve all shellfish mariculture permit applications submitted with appropriate safeguards for wild stocks. <u>Measure:</u> Proportion of annually submitted shellfish mariculture permit applications approved with appropriate safeguards for wild stocks.</p> <p><b>(5) Support the rationalization and control of effort in commercial fisheries.</b></p>

End Results	Strategies to Achieve Results
	<p><u>Target:</u> Provide information necessary for the Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC) and the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC) to identify fisheries for which rationalization is needed and justifiable.  <u>Measure:</u> Proportion of formal requests from CFEC and NPFMC for information needed to make rationalization decisions that are fulfilled.</p> <p><u>Target:</u> Assist Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission and the North Pacific Fishery Management Council in designing and implementing effective rationalization programs, as needed, for commercial fisheries.  <u>Measure:</u> Number of commercial fisheries needing rationalization for which regulatory programs for rationalization have been implemented.</p> <p><u>Target:</u> Work with CFEC, the Legislature, and the AK BOF to develop and authorize an array of options and tools that may be implemented to control effort, consolidate fleets, improve quality, or increase efficiencies in individual commercial fisheries.  <u>Measure:</u> The number of new options and tools authorized.</p> <p><b>(6) Promote satisfaction with the public use of fish, shellfish, and aquatic plants in subsistence and personal use fisheries.</b></p> <p><u>Target:</u> Meet the demand for subsistence harvests, as established by the Board of Fisheries, for 80% of the subsistence fisheries in the state.  <u>Measure:</u> Within each region, the proportion of species for which subsistence use demand has been met.</p> <p><u>Target:</u> With the AK BOF, and where appropriate, the Federal Subsistence Board and the NPFMC, develop and implement subsistence and personal use fishery management plans to address the demand for all species within each region of Alaska.  <u>Measure:</u> Proportion of species within each region for which management plans have been developed to provide for identified demands for subsistence and personal use fishing opportunities.</p> <p><b>(7) Maintain and enhance opportunities for public participation in the development of fishery management plans and harvest regulations.</b></p> <p><u>Target:</u> Respond to all proposals to be considered by the Alaska Board of Fisheries and its associated Fish and Game Advisory Committees and by the North Pacific Fishery Management Council.  <u>Measure:</u> Proportion of proposals to the ABOF and the NPFMC responded to within designated timeframes.</p>

End Results	Strategies to Achieve Results
	<p><u>Target:</u> Submit draft fishery management plans for all fisheries without one, within the next three years, to the Alaska Board of Fisheries and the North Pacific Fishery Management Council.</p> <p><u>Measure:</u> Proportion of fisheries without fishery management plans for which draft management plans are submitted.</p> <p><b>(8) Develop and maintain a comprehensive database on commercial, subsistence and personal use harvests, and associated processing of fish, shellfish, and aquatic plants.</b></p> <p><u>Target:</u> All commercial harvests and related information should be recorded in a centralized database within six months, or annually by June of the following year.</p> <p><u>Measure:</u> Proportion of commercial fisheries for which comprehensive harvest and related information is recorded in a centralized database within six months, or annually by June of the following year.</p> <p><u>Target:</u> Valid estimates of subsistence and personal use harvests should be recorded in a centralized database within one year, or annually by December of the following year.</p> <p><u>Measure:</u> Proportion of subsistence and personal use fisheries for which comprehensive harvest and associated effort information is recorded in a centralized database within one year, or annually by December of the following year.</p> <p><b>(9) Promote public education on the conservation, production, and economic and social benefits of yields from fish, shellfish, and aquatic plants.</b></p> <p><u>Target:</u> Increase by five percent annually, publication of investigations on the benefits of harvests, and the status and productivity of stocks of finfish, shellfish and aquatic plants.</p> <p><u>Measure:</u> Number of articles, news releases, educational leaflets and videos produced annually.</p> <p><u>Target:</u> Increase divisional participation by 5% annually in conferences, public forums and personal appearances, where the benefits of harvests and status and productivity of stocks of finfish, shellfish and aquatic plants are discussed.</p> <p><u>Measure:</u> Annual number of conferences, public forums and personal appearances where the benefits of harvests and status and productivity of stocks of finfish, shellfish and aquatic plants are described directly to the public.</p>

Major Activities to Advance Strategies	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Collect age, size, and sex data on harvested finfish</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide technical oversight in finfish and shellfish</li> </ul>

### Major Activities to Advance Strategies

- and shellfish populations.
- Operate aging/tag/otolith, genetics, and pathology laboratories.
- Collect and analyze genetic markers from finfish and shellfish populations.
- Survey and sample marine finfish and shellfish populations.
- Calculate annual escapement goals for salmon.
- Establish annual harvest objectives for marine species.
- Prevent the introduction and spread of invasive and introduced species.
- Permit aquatic farms for shellfish and aquatic plants.
- Provide biological and technical assistance to existing and prospective aquatic farmers.
- Open and close areas for commercial fishing to harvest surpluses.
- Collect harvest information from commercial, personal use and subsistence fisheries.
- Operate weirs, sonar projects, and counting towers to track salmon escapements.
- Conduct aerial surveys during management of salmon and herring fisheries.
- Place observers on fishing vessels to sample catches and collect data.
- Conduct test fishing operations as part of stock assessment efforts.
- Conduct life history and habitat utilization research.
- Conduct stock assessment and recruitment modeling.
- Investigate new and improved technologies for determining biological productivity and calculating yields.
- Conduct collaborative research with universities, federal agencies, and non-governmental organizations.
- Expand database of genetic markers to stocks not currently covered.
- Develop models for calculating Maximum Sustained Yield for stocks lacking them.
- Provide training and continuing education for staff from all job classes.
- Conduct life history and other biological research on underutilized fish stocks.
- Respond to industry requests for new fisheries on underutilized stocks.
- Work with Board of Fisheries to authorize fisheries on underutilized stocks.
- Permit and oversee private non-profit salmon hatchery program.
- Approve salmon and shellfish stocks with acceptable disease histories for mariculture and salmon aquaculture programs.
- health for hatchery and farm operators.
- Prevent or prescribe treatment for disease outbreaks at salmon hatcheries or shellfish farms.
- Provide harvest and production data to CFEC and NPFMC.
- Comment to NPFMC and CFEC on fishery management and biological issues associated with rationalization proposals.
- Provide individual fishing history data to boat owners, captains, and federal and state agencies.
- Open and close areas and species for subsistence and personal use harvest.
- Issue permits for personal use and subsistence fisheries.
- Tabulate subsistence and personal use catches.
- Provide reports to the Board of Fisheries and other entities on subsistence and personal use fisheries.
- Work with the Board of Fisheries and the public to craft management plans and regulations that meet subsistence and personal use needs.
- Provide biological and fishery management information to the Board of Fisheries and state fish and game advisory committees.
- Submit proposals to the Board of Fisheries.
- Comment on both staff and public proposals before the Board of Fisheries.
- Provide oral and written biological and fishery management advice to the Board of Fisheries.
- Draft regulations and management plans based on proposals approved by the Board of Fisheries.
- Provide staff support to the Alaska Board of Fisheries.
- Design and maintain electronic databases for catch and production data.
- License fish processors.
- Design, print, issue, collect, edit, and data enter fish tickets recording harvests.
- Collect, edit and data enter annual buying and production data from seafood processors.
- Provide summary information on harvests and production in electronic and print media.
- Maintain confidentiality of protected data.
- Publish catch and production information on web site.
- Provide internet access to searchable database of division publications.
- Publish news releases on department research and management activities.
- Publish articles on fisheries management and research in magazines and trade journals.
- Provide photos and video footage on the web site and to the media.

### FY2005 Resources Allocated to Achieve Results

<b>FY2005 Results Delivery Unit Budget: \$48,364,200</b>	<b>Personnel:</b>	
	Full time	315
	Part time	515
	<b>Total</b>	<b>830</b>

## Performance Measure Detail

### (1) Result: Stable or increasing economic benefits derived from the harvest and use of fish, shellfish, and aquatic plants in Alaska.

**Target:** Annual ex-vessel value of Alaska commercial fisheries production should exceed \$1 billion.

**Measure:** Total annual ex-vessel value of commercial harvests of salmon, herring, groundfish, shellfish, and aquatic plants.

**Analysis of results and challenges:** The department has been actively working to refine performance measure detail. Many new targets and measures were developed during Fall 2003. Work on gathering baseline data and reporting results is currently in progress.

**Target:** Annual subsistence needs for fish, shellfish and aquatic plants should be met in 80% of those households in Alaska that participate in subsistence hunting and fishing.

**Measure:** Proportion of households surveyed that have met their annual subsistence needs for fish, shellfish, and aquatic plants.

**Analysis of results and challenges:** The department has been actively working to refine performance measure detail. Many new targets and measures were developed during Fall 2003. Work on gathering baseline data and reporting results is currently in progress.

**Target:** Annual value of aquatic shellfish farming production should increase by 5% per year

**Measure:** Percent increase from previous year of shellfish sales from permitted aquatic farms.

**Analysis of results and challenges:** The department has been actively working to refine performance measure detail. Many new targets and measures were developed during Fall 2003. Work on gathering baseline data and reporting results is currently in progress.

### (2) Result: Optimized public participation in the utilization of fish, shellfish, and aquatic plants and in the regulatory process used to control those uses.

**Target:** For commercial fishing and processing employees, earnings should provide a living wage.

**Measure:** Economic rents for operations in various fishery sectors and average and range of wages of employees in each sector compared to costs of living.

**Analysis of results and challenges:** The department has been actively working to refine performance measure detail. Many new targets and measures were developed during Fall 2003. Work on gathering baseline data and reporting results is currently in progress.

**Target:** For subsistence and personal use fisheries, public satisfaction with harvest opportunities should exceed eighty percent.

**Measure:** Survey results of the approval and satisfaction of subsistence households and personal use fishermen.

**Analysis of results and challenges:** The department has been actively working to refine performance measure

detail. Many new targets and measures were developed during Fall 2003. Work on gathering baseline data and reporting results is currently in progress.

**Target:** Regulatory forums of the Alaska Board of Fisheries, the NPFMC, the International Pacific Halibut Commission, the Pacific Salmon Commission and other agencies and agreements, should be fluid and responsive to public participation and proposals.

**Measure:** Proportion of submitted public proposals that are effectively addressed within each forum annually.

**Analysis of results and challenges:** The department has been actively working to refine performance measure detail. Many new targets and measures were developed during Fall 2003. Work on gathering baseline data and reporting results is currently in progress.

### (3) Result: Improved public awareness of factors affecting the status of fish, shellfish and aquatic plants as well as influences on sustained yield of these resources.

**Target:** Seventy-five percent of Alaskan public express confidence in management of Alaska's subsistence, commercial, and personal use fisheries.

**Measure:** Questionnaire on division web site regarding the attitudes of Alaskans toward fisheries management.

**Analysis of results and challenges:** The department has been actively working to refine performance measure detail. Many new targets and measures were developed during Fall 2003. Work on gathering baseline data and reporting results is currently in progress.

**Target:** Continue or expand third party certification of the sustainability and sound management of Alaska's commercial fisheries.

**Measure:** Independent third party certification of the sustainability and soundness of the management of Alaska's commercial fisheries.

**Analysis of results and challenges:** The department has been actively working to refine performance measure detail. Many new targets and measures were developed during Fall 2003. Work on gathering baseline data and reporting results is currently in progress.

**Target:** Increase by 5% visits to division web pages compared to prior three year average.

**Measure:** Increases in utilization of division web site.

**Analysis of results and challenges:** The department has been actively working to refine performance measure detail. Many new targets and measures were developed during Fall 2003. Work on gathering baseline data and reporting results is currently in progress.

### (1) Strategy: Ensure the conservation of natural stocks of fish, shellfish and aquatic plants based on scientifically sound assessments.

**Target:** Establish annual escapement goals for all salmon stocks that are subject to harvest.

**Measure:** Proportion of harvested salmon stocks that have annual escapement goals identified.

**Analysis of results and challenges:** The department has been actively working to refine performance measure detail. Many new targets and measures were developed during Fall 2003. Work on gathering baseline data and reporting results is currently in progress.

**Target:** Determine minimum spawning biomass or other baseline biological reference points for herring, groundfish, and shellfish stocks harvested in commercial fisheries.

**Measure:** Proportion of harvested herring, groundfish, and shellfish stocks that have baseline biological reference points determined.

**Analysis of results and challenges:** The department has been actively working to refine performance measure detail. Many new targets and measures were developed during Fall 2003. Work on gathering baseline data and reporting results is currently in progress.

## (2) Strategy: Sustain fisheries on stocks of fish, shellfish and aquatic plants based upon the control and regulation of harvests through responsive management systems.

**Target:** Allow full commercial and subsistence harvest of annual surpluses of salmon stocks while achieving at least 80% of all annual escapement goals.

**Measure:** Proportion of salmon stocks harvested; proportion of annual salmon escapement goals achieved.

**Analysis of results and challenges:** The department has been actively working to refine performance measure detail. Many new targets and measures were developed during Fall 2003. Work on gathering baseline data and reporting results is currently in progress.

**Target:** Achieve annual harvest objectives (plus or minus 20%) for all herring, groundfish, and shellfish stocks that are commercially exploited.

**Measure:** Proportion of commercially exploited herring, groundfish, and shellfish stocks that have harvest objectives achieved (within plus or minus 20%).

**Analysis of results and challenges:** The department has been actively working to refine performance measure detail. Many new targets and measures were developed during Fall 2003. Work on gathering baseline data and reporting results is currently in progress.

## (3) Strategy: Increase fishery harvests and harvest opportunities of fish, shellfish and aquatic plants through the investigation of maximum sustained yield for individual and aggregate populations.

**Target:** Every three years, establish new or revised biological escapement goals predicated on achieving maximum sustainable yield for five percent of all salmon stocks that are commercially harvested.

**Measure:** Proportion of harvested salmon stocks that have new or revised biological escapement goals identified that are calculated to achieve maximum sustainable yield.

**Analysis of results and challenges:** The department has been actively working to refine performance measure detail. Many new targets and measures were developed during Fall 2003. Work on gathering baseline data and reporting results is currently in progress.

**Target:** Determine, through spawner-recruit analysis, yield per recruit analysis or other appropriate estimation, biological reference points that will allow for the maximum sustainable yield from all finfish and shellfish stocks harvested in commercial fisheries.

**Measure:** Proportion of harvested finfish, and shellfish stocks that have biological reference points determined that would allow for achievement of maximum sustainable yield.

**Analysis of results and challenges:** The department has been actively working to refine performance measure detail. Many new targets and measures were developed during Fall 2003. Work on gathering baseline data and reporting results is currently in progress.

## (4) Strategy: Expand fishery potential through identification of underutilized species/stocks of fish, shellfish and aquatic plants.

**Target:** Determine basic harvest guidelines for eighty percent of all underutilized species/stock groups identified annually by the department in consultation with private industry.

**Measure:** Proportion of public requests for new fisheries that have basic harvest guidelines determined.

**Analysis of results and challenges:** The department has been actively working to refine performance measure detail. Many new targets and measures were developed during Fall 2003. Work on gathering baseline data and reporting results is currently in progress.

**Target:** Annually approve the operation of all existing salmon non-profit hatchery operations in Alaska, with

appropriate safeguards for wild stocks.

**Measure:** Proportion of existing non-profit salmon hatchery operations approved with appropriate safeguards for wild stocks.

**Analysis of results and challenges:** The department has been actively working to refine performance measure detail. Many new targets and measures were developed during Fall 2003. Work on gathering baseline data and reporting results is currently in progress.

**Target:** Annually approve all shellfish mariculture permit applications submitted with appropriate safeguards for wild stocks.

**Measure:** Proportion of annually submitted shellfish mariculture permit applications approved with appropriate safeguards for wild stocks.

**Analysis of results and challenges:** The department has been actively working to refine performance measure detail. Many new targets and measures were developed during Fall 2003. Work on gathering baseline data and reporting results is currently in progress.

#### **(5) Strategy: Support the rationalization and control of effort in commercial fisheries.**

**Target:** Provide information necessary for the Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC) and the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC) to identify fisheries for which rationalization is needed and justifiable.

**Measure:** Proportion of formal requests from CFEC and NPFMC for information needed to make rationalization decisions that are fulfilled.

**Analysis of results and challenges:** The department has been actively working to refine performance measure detail. Many new targets and measures were developed during Fall 2003. Work on gathering baseline data and reporting results is currently in progress.

**Target:** Assist Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission and the North Pacific Fishery Management Council in designing and implementing effective rationalization programs, as needed, for commercial fisheries.

**Measure:** Number of commercial fisheries needing rationalization for which regulatory programs for rationalization have been implemented.

**Analysis of results and challenges:** The department has been actively working to refine performance measure detail. Many new targets and measures were developed during Fall 2003. Work on gathering baseline data and reporting results is currently in progress.

**Target:** Work with CFEC, the Legislature, and the AK BOF to develop and authorize an array of options and tools that may be implemented to control effort, consolidate fleets, improve quality, or increase efficiencies in individual commercial fisheries.

**Measure:** The number of new options and tools authorized.

**Analysis of results and challenges:** The department has been actively working to refine performance measure detail. Many new targets and measures were developed during Fall 2003. Work on gathering baseline data and reporting results is currently in progress.

#### **(6) Strategy: Promote satisfaction with the public use of fish, shellfish, and aquatic plants in subsistence and personal use fisheries.**

**Target:** Meet the demand for subsistence harvests, as established by the Board of Fisheries, for 80% of the subsistence fisheries in the state.

**Measure:** Within each region, the proportion of species for which subsistence use demand has been met.

**Analysis of results and challenges:** The department has been actively working to refine performance measure detail. Many new targets and measures were developed during Fall 2003. Work on gathering baseline data and reporting results is currently in progress.

**Target:** With the AK BOF, and where appropriate, the Federal Subsistence Board and the NPFMC, develop and implement subsistence and personal use fishery management plans to address the demand for all species within each region of Alaska.

**Measure:** Proportion of species within each region for which management plans have been developed to provide for identified demands for subsistence and personal use fishing opportunities.

**Analysis of results and challenges:** The department has been actively working to refine performance measure detail. Many new targets and measures were developed during Fall 2003. Work on gathering baseline data and reporting results is currently in progress.

#### **(7) Strategy: Maintain and enhance opportunities for public participation in the development of fishery management plans and harvest regulations.**

**Target:** Respond to all proposals to be considered by the Alaska Board of Fisheries and its associated Fish and Game Advisory Committees and by the North Pacific Fishery Management Council.

**Measure:** Proportion of proposals to the ABOF and the NPFMC responded to within designated timeframes.

**Analysis of results and challenges:** The department has been actively working to refine performance measure detail. Many new targets and measures were developed during Fall 2003. Work on gathering baseline data and reporting results is currently in progress.

**Target:** Submit draft fishery management plans for all fisheries without one, within the next three years, to the Alaska Board of Fisheries and the North Pacific Fishery Management Council.

**Measure:** Proportion of fisheries without fishery management plans for which draft management plans are submitted.

**Analysis of results and challenges:** The department has been actively working to refine performance measure detail. Many new targets and measures were developed during Fall 2003. Work on gathering baseline data and reporting results is currently in progress.

#### **(8) Strategy: Develop and maintain a comprehensive database on commercial, subsistence and personal use harvests, and associated processing of fish, shellfish, and aquatic plants.**

**Target:** All commercial harvests and related information should be recorded in a centralized database within six months, or annually by June of the following year.

**Measure:** Proportion of commercial fisheries for which comprehensive harvest and related information is recorded in a centralized database within six months, or annually by June of the following year.

**Analysis of results and challenges:** The department has been actively working to refine performance measure detail. Many new targets and measures were developed during Fall 2003. Work on gathering baseline data and reporting results is currently in progress.

**Target:** Valid estimates of subsistence and personal use harvests should be recorded in a centralized database within one year, or annually by December of the following year.

**Measure:** Proportion of subsistence and personal use fisheries for which comprehensive harvest and associated effort information is recorded in a centralized database within one year, or annually by December of the following year.

**Analysis of results and challenges:** The department has been actively working to refine performance measure detail. Many new targets and measures were developed during Fall 2003. Work on gathering baseline data and reporting results is currently in progress.

#### **(9) Strategy: Promote public education on the conservation, production, and economic and social benefits of yields from fish, shellfish, and aquatic plants.**

**Target:** Increase by five percent annually, publication of investigations on the benefits of harvests, and the status and productivity of stocks of finfish, shellfish and aquatic plants.

**Measure:** Number of articles, news releases, educational leaflets and videos produced annually.

**Analysis of results and challenges:** The department has been actively working to refine performance measure detail. Many new targets and measures were developed during Fall 2003. Work on gathering baseline data and reporting results is currently in progress.

**Target:** Increase divisional participation by 5% annually in conferences, public forums and personal appearances, where the benefits of harvests and status and productivity of stocks of finfish, shellfish and aquatic plants are discussed.

**Measure:** Annual number of conferences, public forums and personal appearances where the benefits of harvests and status and productivity of stocks of finfish, shellfish and aquatic plants are described directly to the public.

**Analysis of results and challenges:** The department has been actively working to refine performance measure detail. Many new targets and measures were developed during Fall 2003. Work on gathering baseline data and reporting results is currently in progress.

## Key RDU Challenges

### Salmon Fishery Restructuring

Poor market conditions for Alaskan salmon are forcing major restructuring in the Alaskan salmon industry among both processors and fishermen. Coastal communities are also severely impacted. Industry, in turn, is requesting innovations in salmon management to assist in reducing costs, improving quality, and better utilizing current harvesting and processing capacity.

### Bering Sea Crab Research

The division is working on new methodologies, with federal funds, for stock assessments of Bering Sea snow crab, a stock that until recently provided the largest crab harvests in Alaska. Improved stock assessments will allow the department to maximize harvests, which is especially important to industry during periods of low stock productivity.

### Employee Recruitment and Retention Difficulties

The division is continuing to lose experienced biologists, fishery scientists, and biometricians to federal agencies and other employers as well as retirements. Replacing these specialized and experienced staff has proven difficult because we cannot offer competitive salaries. Insufficient applicants from within the state are requiring supervisors to recruit from out of state for almost all positions and even then many of our vacancies attract a poor applicant pool.

### Federal/State Subsistence

In order to minimize disruption to state residents; to protect state fish resources; and minimize federal intrusion into state management, significant staff time is spent interacting with the federal system of regional councils, representing federal subsistence users, and the federal bureaucracy.

### Federal Fishery Rationalization

The North Pacific Fishery Management Council has a number of initiatives underway that affect state managed fisheries. These include proposals for rationalization of the Bering Sea crab fisheries and the groundfish fisheries in the Gulf of Alaska. State managers and researchers must work with the NPFMC to avoid deleterious impacts to state fisheries and coastal communities as federal rationalization occurs.

### Western Alaska Salmon Returns

Salmon returns to the Kuskokwim and Yukon Rivers improved in 2003, but returns are still declining in Norton Sound. It is still too soon to tell whether the improvements seen in 2003 are short or long term. Federally-funded research projects intended to improve understanding of the factors affecting salmon production in Western Alaska are continuing.

### Fishery Allocations

The allocation of fisheries resources among users continues to place significant demands on policy makers and managers. In many cases, the division does not have adequate funding to gather and analyze the data needed by the policy makers to address these complex issues. Nor does it have the funds necessary to carry out allocative

management decisions that depend on the collection and analysis of additional data. The result is that allocative disputes often continue to worsen and become increasingly acrimonious.

### **Vessels and Aircraft Maintenance**

The division has several research and support vessels and four small aircraft, which require regular maintenance and periodic overhaul. They are integral to a variety of stock assessment programs and also provide platforms for inseason management. Maintenance must be provided to protect this capital investment, assure efficient operations, and meet safety requirements.

### **Support for Aquaculture**

Both private non-profit salmon hatchery operators and aquatic shellfish farmers depend on the division for planning, permitting, disease prevention, and other technical services. The division is frequently unable to provide the level of support desired, because of limited funding and staffing.

## **Significant Changes in Results to be Delivered in FY2005**

The Commercial Fisheries Division general fund budget will be reduced in FY05. This reduction will be spread among all four regions, including Southeast, Central, Westward, and Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim (AYK), as well as the Headquarters Fisheries Management Components. Our core programs will continue under this scenario, but management in specific areas of the state will, by necessity, become more conservative or risk-averse. Where possible, the division will use federal funding to reduce impacts on core programs.

## **Major RDU Accomplishments in 2003**

The 2003 Alaska commercial salmon catch was approximately 173 million fish with an exvessel value of \$195 million. Both the harvest and the value are up from 2002. The 2003 harvest is the eighth largest in history, but the exvessel value is less than half the 1990-1999 average of \$412 million. Subsistence needs were met in the Yukon and Kuskokwim drainages.

The management of subsistence, commercial, and personal use salmon fisheries in 2003 continued the division's successful record of harvesting large numbers of salmon while maintaining spawning populations that will provide for continued use of these resources by future generations of Alaskans.

The state waters Pacific cod fishery was successful in taking the entire quota in the Kodiak, Alaska Peninsula, and Chignik areas. Communities and industry representatives from the affected areas are supporting an increase in the quotas for these areas.

Research plans have been developed, or are in the process of development, to examine the factors affecting salmon production in Western Alaska. These plans are funded by the federal government and are bringing together a coalition of private and government organizations to set research objectives, select projects for funding, and operate projects.

The 2003 Bristol Bay red king crab quota was increased as a result of the analysis of alternative fishing plans conducted by the division and a small increase in surveyed abundance. This increase in opportunity provided some relief to a crab industry struggling with the decline of other stocks, especially the Bering Sea snow crab stock.

The division, in conjunction with the Department of Natural Resources, has identified a total of 168 sites (1280 acres) suitable for aquatic farming under the HB 208 disposal program. Approximately 262 sites were evaluated to arrive at the final selection of 168 sites.

**Contact Information**

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**Commercial Fisheries  
RDU Financial Summary by Component**

*All dollars shown in thousands*

	FY2003 Actuals				FY2004 Authorized				FY2005 Governor			
	General Funds	Federal Funds	Other Funds	Total Funds	General Funds	Federal Funds	Other Funds	Total Funds	General Funds	Federal Funds	Other Funds	Total Funds
<b>Formula Expenditures</b>	None.											
<b>Non-Formula Expenditures</b>												
SE Region Fisheries Mgmt.	4,319.4	448.6	440.0	5,208.0	4,311.2	552.3	651.9	5,515.4	4,159.2	567.5	702.8	5,429.5
Central Region Fisheries Mgmt.	5,272.7	0.0	651.4	5,924.1	5,267.6	0.0	655.1	5,922.7	5,334.1	0.0	671.3	6,005.4
AYK Region Fisheries Mgmt.	4,087.5	0.0	28.7	4,116.2	3,960.2	0.0	34.7	3,994.9	4,018.5	0.0	35.2	4,053.7
Westward Region Fisheries Mgmt.	5,678.6	0.0	718.3	6,396.9	5,458.5	0.0	1,311.0	6,769.5	5,252.8	0.0	1,437.8	6,690.6
Headquarters Fisheries Mgmt.	3,013.8	0.0	433.6	3,447.4	2,734.7	0.0	733.6	3,468.3	2,045.1	0.0	733.6	2,778.7
Fisheries Development	2,307.7	0.0	0.0	2,307.7	2,390.6	0.0	2.3	2,392.9	2,276.6	0.0	0.0	2,276.6
Comm Fish Special Projects	0.0	9,816.7	3,165.8	12,982.5	0.0	12,709.6	4,318.2	17,027.8	0.0	13,719.7	5,016.5	18,736.2
Comm Fish CIP Position Costs	0.0	0.0	2,316.9	2,316.9	0.0	0.0	2,285.1	2,285.1	0.0	0.0	2,393.5	2,393.5
Comm Fish EVOS Restoration Projs	0.0	0.0	43.6	43.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>24,679.7</b>	<b>10,265.3</b>	<b>7,798.3</b>	<b>42,743.3</b>	<b>24,122.8</b>	<b>13,261.9</b>	<b>9,991.9</b>	<b>47,376.6</b>	<b>23,086.3</b>	<b>14,287.2</b>	<b>10,990.7</b>	<b>48,364.2</b>

**Commercial Fisheries**  
**Summary of RDU Budget Changes by Component**  
**From FY2004 Authorized to FY2005 Governor**

*All dollars shown in thousands*

	<u>General Funds</u>	<u>Federal Funds</u>	<u>Other Funds</u>	<u>Total Funds</u>
<b>FY2004 Authorized</b>	<b>24,122.8</b>	<b>13,261.9</b>	<b>9,991.9</b>	<b>47,376.6</b>
<b>Adjustments which will continue current level of service:</b>				
-SE Region Fisheries Mgmt.	0.0	15.2	0.9	16.1
-Central Region Fisheries Mgmt.	249.0	0.0	16.2	265.2
-AYK Region Fisheries Mgmt.	249.0	0.0	0.5	249.5
-Westward Region Fisheries Mgmt.	0.0	0.0	26.8	26.8
-Headquarters Fisheries Mgmt.	-498.0	0.0	0.0	-498.0
-Comm Fish Special Projects	0.0	335.1	98.3	433.4
-Comm Fish CIP Position Costs	0.0	0.0	108.4	108.4
<b>Proposed budget decreases:</b>				
-SE Region Fisheries Mgmt.	-152.0	0.0	0.0	-152.0
-Central Region Fisheries Mgmt.	-182.5	0.0	0.0	-182.5
-AYK Region Fisheries Mgmt.	-190.7	0.0	0.0	-190.7
-Westward Region Fisheries Mgmt.	-205.7	0.0	0.0	-205.7
-Headquarters Fisheries Mgmt.	-191.6	0.0	0.0	-191.6
-Fisheries Development	-114.0	0.0	-2.3	-116.3
<b>Proposed budget increases:</b>				
-SE Region Fisheries Mgmt.	0.0	0.0	50.0	50.0
-Westward Region Fisheries Mgmt.	0.0	0.0	100.0	100.0
-Comm Fish Special Projects	0.0	675.0	600.0	1,275.0
<b>FY2005 Governor</b>	<b>23,086.3</b>	<b>14,287.2</b>	<b>10,990.7</b>	<b>48,364.2</b>