

State of Alaska FY2002 Governor's Operating Budget

Department of Fish and Game
Commercial Fish EVOS Restoration Projects
Component

Component: Commercial Fish EVOS Restoration Projects

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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.

Exxon Valdez Oil Spill (EVOS) projects have been conducted to assist the division in accomplishing its mission to provide for the wise use of fishery resources and to ensure sustainable fisheries. Several management tools have been developed through EVOS projects that have improved resource management capabilities.

Component Services Provided

Through EVOS projects the division has tried to improve fishery management programs through better understanding factors which affect production, improving assessment capabilities, and developing new tools. This directly benefits people depending on fishery resources for their livelihoods, such as commercial, personal use and subsistence fishers, as well as people who use these resources for recreation and other forms of enjoyment.

Component Goals and Strategies

The overall goal of the EVOS Component has been to restore resources and services injured by the 1989 Exxon Valdez Oil Spill. Our strategy has been to monitor the recovery of injured resources, to improve resource management, and to restore resources.

Key Component Issues for FY2001 – 2002

In the future, the division is interested in conducting studies which continue to improve our understanding of fishery production, as well as our abilities to conduct assessments and management harvests. Along these lines, we are particularly interested in improving our ability to assess and monitor the following resources: 1) Prince William Sound and Cook Inlet herring populations. These populations are in decline, fisheries are currently closed, and causes are not understood. 2) Prince William Sound pink salmon. There is a very high level of straying of hatchery produced pink salmon into many wild salmon spawning areas. Effects of this on wild populations are not well understood and the cause of much debate. 3) Prince William Sound and Cook Inlet rockfish species. These long lived species have been placed under increasing pressure from both directed harvests and bycatch removals since the 1989 oil spill. There is also evidence that some species were killed during the spill by exposure to either oil or contaminated food. Little is known of the population structure, abundance or habitat requirements of these species. 4) Ecosystem management issues. The Sound Ecosystem Assessment program sought to model the physical and biological factors important in determining production of various key species in Prince William Sound. Unfortunately, important model components have not yet been completed. Additionally, Ecopath models of energy flow may be another valuable tool with which to understand the Prince William Sound ecosystem. We hope to contribute to further developing and refining these types of modeling approaches in the future for use as resource management tools.

Major Component Accomplishments for FY2000

Through past studies we have greatly improved our understanding and management of several important fishery resources. 1) Kenai River sockeye salmon. EVOS studies allowed us to model factors affecting production, to set better spawning goals, to understand stock structure and devise methods to determine contributions to catches through genetic studies, and to estimate abundance within commercial fishing districts using hydroacoustics. 2) Prince William Sound pink salmon. EVOS studies allowed us to better understand the factors influencing our ability to

conduct accurate surveys of spawner abundance through ground and aerial surveys on streams with weirs, to better understand stock structure through genetics, to monitor recovery of spawning habitat through embryo field and laboratory studies, to develop otolith thermal marking methods that have allowed us to estimate hatchery contributions to catches as well as hatchery straying into wild spawning streams, and to better understand early life history requirements through the Sound Ecosystem Assessment study. 3) Prince William Sound herring. EVOS studies allowed us to assess spawning populations and monitor recovery using spawn deposition surveys, and to recognize and assess effects of disease on recruitment. 4) Cook Inlet chum salmon. EVOS studies allowed us to construct spawning channels in Port Dick Creek that provided additional habitat for production of chum salmon. 5) Prince William Sound walleye pollock. EVOS studies allowed us to better understand interactions between this species and pink salmon, as well as factors affecting pollock production through the Sound Ecosystem Assessment program.

Statutory and Regulatory Authority

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**Commercial Fish EVOS Restoration Projects
Component Financial Summary**

All dollars in thousands

	FY2000 Actuals	FY2001 Authorized	FY2002 Governor
Non-Formula Program:			
Component Expenditures:			
71000 Personal Services	278.1	93.0	92.0
72000 Travel	5.1	2.0	2.0
73000 Contractual	49.5	137.4	137.4
74000 Supplies	13.5	14.7	14.7
75000 Equipment	3.4	0.0	0.0
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
Expenditure Totals	349.6	247.1	246.1
Funding Sources:			
1018 Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Settlement	349.6	247.1	246.1
Funding Totals	349.6	247.1	246.1

Estimated Revenue Collections

Description	Master Revenue Account	FY2000 Actuals	FY2001 Authorized	FY2001 Cash Estimate	FY2002 Governor	FY2003 Forecast
Unrestricted Revenues						
None.		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Unrestricted Total		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Restricted Revenues						
Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Settlement	51392	349.6	247.1	247.1	246.1	246.1
Restricted Total		349.6	247.1	247.1	246.1	246.1
Total Estimated Revenues		349.6	247.1	247.1	246.1	246.1

Commercial Fish EVOS Restoration Projects
Proposed Changes in Levels of Service for FY2002

There are no services changes anticipated in FY2002.

Summary of Component Budget Changes
From FY2001 Authorized to FY2002 Governor

All dollars in thousands

	<u>General Funds</u>	<u>Federal Funds</u>	<u>Other Funds</u>	<u>Total Funds</u>
FY2001 Authorized	0.0	0.0	247.1	247.1
Adjustments which will continue current level of service:				
-Year 2 Labor Costs - Net Change from FY2001	0.0	0.0	-1.0	-1.0
FY2002 Governor	0.0	0.0	246.1	246.1

Commercial Fish EVOS Restoration Projects

Personal Services Information

Authorized Positions			Personal Services Costs	
	FY2001 Authorized	FY2002 Governor		
Full-time	0	0	Annual Salaries	57,802
Part-time	2	2	Premium Pay	7,837
Nonpermanent	0	0	Annual Benefits	26,380
			<i>Less 0.00% Vacancy Factor</i>	(0)
			Lump Sum Premium Pay	0
Totals	2	2	Total Personal Services	92,019

Position Classification Summary

Job Class Title	Anchorage	Fairbanks	Juneau	Others	Total
Fishery Biologist I	0	0	0	1	1
Fishery Biologist II	0	0	0	1	1
Totals	0	0	0	2	2