

# **State of Alaska FY2002 Governor's Operating Budget**

Department of Labor and Workforce Development  
Fishermens Fund  
Component

## **Component: Fishermens Fund**

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## **Component Mission**

Provide assistance with the medical costs of injuries or illnesses due to commercial fishing activities on shore or in state waters.

## **Component Services Provided**

The Fishermen's Fund, established in 1951, provides funds for the care and treatment of Alaska licensed commercial fishermen whose injuries or illnesses are directly connected to operations as fishermen. The Fund is not an insurance program, but an emergency fund payer of last resort.

The Fishermen's Fund revenue is generated through the sales of commercial fishing licenses and permits to both resident and non-residents. Sales of these licenses and permits are designated for the Fishermen's Fund at a fixed percentage (39% effective Jan. 1, 2000) of all commercial fishing licenses sold by all vendors and a fixed amount for all permits issued by the Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission.

## **Component Goals and Strategies**

- 1) REDUCE THE FINANCIAL BURDEN OF MEDICAL EXPENSES ON FISHERMEN BY MAKING THEM AWARE OF PROGRAM BENEFITS AND REQUIREMENTS.
  - The Fishermen's Fund Administrator and/or Council Chair plan on meeting with fishermen, medical providers, harbor masters and other interest groups a minimum of five times during FY2002 to discuss this program and answer questions.
  - As a result of recent Council recommendations, the Fishermen and Physician's Reports of Injury/Illness will continue to be revised and simplified. In the past, these forms have presented some confusion in how they were to be completed and who was to complete them. This component is striving to provide more simplified versions of these forms.
- 2) PROVIDE BENEFITS IN A COST EFFECTIVE, TIMELY MANNER.
  - Research and determine the feasibility of developing and implementing an electronic information handling system which will be compatible with electronic filing.
  - Continue to improve communications with insurance carriers and medical providers through discussion and timely processing of provider payments.
  - Continue to monitor and attempt to improve response time to fishermen and providers by improving procedures and focusing staff responsibilities to more effectively utilize resources.

## **Key Component Issues for FY2001 – 2002**

- This component has been using an outdated computerized database and claims handling system that is becoming obsolete and will soon be unsupported. Consequently there is a need for a new claims handling system.

- Fishermen continue to either be unaware of this program or not understand the requirements of the program and the benefits for which they may be eligible. Meetings and discussions are scheduled and a toll free telephone line will be continued.
- Continue to monitor bill processing and other tasks in an attempt to further improve response time and overall program performance. In the past, correspondence, bill processing and other tasks were not tracked or measured and, as a result, often took much more than 20 days. The measurement and tracking system implemented by this component continues to reduce response time and is expected to produce even further improvements.
- Medical providers continue to be ill informed regarding the submission and completion of claims. As a result the Fishermen's Fund has made an effort to educate and increase communications with various providers throughout the State.

**Major Component Accomplishments for FY2000**

- In FY00, this component continued the revisions of the Fishermen and Physician's Reports of Injury/Illness form and informational booklet in an ongoing effort to simplify this information for both the fishermen and the providers.
- The Fishermen's Fund Administrator and the Division Director attended several informational meetings with fishermen and medical providers in Alaska. In recent years a sincere effort has been made to improve interaction and understanding between this program, the fishermen and medical providers. There has also been an effort to increase telephonic and electronic communications between the Fisherman's Fund and medical providers to enhance faster payment.

**Statutory and Regulatory Authority**

AS 23.35  
8 AAC 55

**Status of FY2001 Performance Measures**

	<i>Achieved</i>	<i>On track</i>	<i>Too soon to tell</i>	<i>Not likely to achieve</i>	<i>Needs modification</i>
• The average time taken for completion of a Fishermen's Fund claim.		X			

**Fishermens Fund**  
**Component Financial Summary**

All dollars in thousands

	FY2000 Actuals	FY2001 Authorized	FY2002 Governor
<b>Non-Formula Program:</b>			
<b>Component Expenditures:</b>			
71000 Personal Services	127.2	149.1	147.4
72000 Travel	13.3	18.2	18.2
73000 Contractual	55.5	90.3	263.1
74000 Supplies	2.4	5.7	5.7
75000 Equipment	4.4	4.0	4.0
76000 Land/Buildings	0.0	0.0	0.0
77000 Grants, Claims	499.5	1,039.4	869.4
78000 Miscellaneous	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>Expenditure Totals</b>	<b>702.3</b>	<b>1,306.7</b>	<b>1,307.8</b>
<b>Funding Sources:</b>			
1032 Disabled Fishermans Reserve Account	702.3	1,306.7	1,307.8
<b>Funding Totals</b>	<b>702.3</b>	<b>1,306.7</b>	<b>1,307.8</b>

**Estimated Revenue Collections**

Description	Master Revenue Account	FY2000 Actuals	FY2001 Authorized	FY2001 Cash Estimate	FY2002 Governor	FY2003 Forecast
<b>Unrestricted Revenues</b>						
Disabled Fishermans Reserve Account	51080	1,187.1	1,306.7	1,197.0	1,307.8	1,193.4
<b>Unrestricted Total</b>		<b>1,187.1</b>	<b>1,306.7</b>	<b>1,197.0</b>	<b>1,307.8</b>	<b>1,193.4</b>
<b>Restricted Revenues</b>						
None.		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>Restricted Total</b>		<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>
<b>Total Estimated Revenues</b>		<b>1,187.1</b>	<b>1,306.7</b>	<b>1,197.0</b>	<b>1,307.8</b>	<b>1,193.4</b>

## Fishermens Fund

### Proposed Changes in Levels of Service for FY2002

This component intends to continue to increase overall effectiveness and industry awareness of the program through presentations by the Administrator and Council Chair at major industry symposiums and meetings with fishermen organizations, medical providers and interest groups.

The component is also expanding telephonic and electronic communication between the Fund and medical providers to increase efficiencies related to the processing of claims.

### 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>
<b>FY2001 Authorized</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>1,306.7</b>	<b>1,306.7</b>
<b>Adjustments which will continue current level of service:</b>				
-Year 2 Labor Costs - Net Change from FY2001	0.0	0.0	-1.2	-1.2
<b>Proposed budget increases:</b>				
-Adjust Personal Services Authorization for Year 2 Labor Costs	0.0	0.0	2.3	2.3
<b>FY2002 Governor</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>1,307.8</b>	<b>1,307.8</b>

## Fishermens Fund

## Personal Services Information

Authorized Positions			Personal Services Costs	
	FY2001 Authorized	FY2002 Governor		
Full-time	3	3	Annual Salaries	108,380
Part-time	0	0	COLA	1,838
Nonpermanent	0	0	Premium Pay	0
			Annual Benefits	41,691
			<i>Less 3.00% Vacancy Factor</i>	<i>(4,557)</i>
			Lump Sum Premium Pay	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>Total Personal Services</b>	<b>147,352</b>

## Position Classification Summary

Job Class Title	Anchorage	Fairbanks	Juneau	Others	Total
Worker Comp Off II	0	0	1	0	1
Worker Comp Technician	0	0	2	0	2
<b>Totals</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>