

State of Alaska FY2005 Governor's Operating Budget

Department of Fish and Game Sport Fisheries Results Delivery Unit Budget Summary

Contents

Sport Fisheries Results Delivery Unit	3
End Results	3
Strategies to Achieve Results	3
RDU Financial Summary by Component	14
Summary of RDU Budget Changes by Component	15
From FY2004 Authorized to FY2005 Governor	15

Sport Fisheries Results Delivery Unit

Contribution to Department's Mission

The mission of the Division of Sport Fish is to protect and improve the state's recreational fisheries resources.

Core Services

- **Stock Assessment:** The division regularly assesses fish populations that are the basis of our state's recreational and personal use fisheries to assure sustained yield from these fishery resources.
- **Management:** Develops fishery regulations/management plans in coordination with Board of Fisheries and other regulatory boards to manage recreational and personal use fisheries for sustained yields.
- **Hatchery Production:** Maintains 3 hatcheries producing chinook/coho salmon, rainbow trout, char and grayling to provide added/more diverse recreational fishing opportunities that do not affect wild stocks or their fisheries.
- **Access Development & Maintenance:** The division builds, buys, leases, and maintains physical access to fisheries for the benefit of Alaska's recreational and personal use fishers.
- **Habitat Assessment:** The division provides habitat assessment and restoration expertise and assistance in the management of legislatively-designated Special Areas.
- **Information & Education Services:** The division supports an outreach program to inform and educate the public regarding sport fishing opportunities, regulations, and the life histories of fishes and their habitat needs.
- **Enforcement:** The division assists in enforcement of state laws and regulations to assure orderly and legal recreational and personal use fisheries.
- **Planning & Survey:** The division monitors the preferences of Alaska's public regarding the management of Alaska's recreational and personal use fisheries through strategic planning and surveys of public opinion.

End Results	Strategies to Achieve Results
<p>(1) Sustain recreational fishing opportunities while optimizing social and economic benefits from these opportunities.</p> <p><u>Target:</u> Increase to 95% the percentage of stocks of concern (SOC) for which management plans or recovery strategies are implemented.</p> <p><u>Measure:</u> Percent of SOC with management plans or recovery strategies that are implemented.</p> <p><u>Target:</u> Reduce by 5% the number of stocks closed to fishing.</p> <p><u>Measure:</u> Percent change in stocks closed to fishing.</p> <p><u>Target:</u> Increase expenditures from recreational fishing by at least 3% above the 2001 level (as measured by the National Survey of Hunting and Fishing).</p> <p><u>Measure:</u> Percent change in expenditures.</p> <p><u>Target:</u> Increase angler participation by at least 3% over most recent 5 year average.</p>	<p>(1) To sustain fisheries and conserve wild stocks with management based on scientifically sound assessments.</p> <p><u>Target:</u> Increase by 5% the number of stocks that have sustainable biological management objectives that can be measured and attained.</p> <p><u>Measure:</u> Percent change in the number of stocks that have sustainable biological management objectives.</p> <p><u>Target:</u> Increase by 5% the number of biological management objectives that are scientifically evaluated.</p> <p><u>Measure:</u> Percent change in the number of biological management objectives that are scientifically evaluated.</p> <p>(2) To minimize immediate and cumulative impacts of land and water development to aquatic, riparian & upland habitats.</p> <p><u>Target:</u> Increase to at least 90% the mitigation of impacts due to watershed development.</p>

End Results	Strategies to Achieve Results
<p><u>Measure:</u> Percent change in angler participation and in number of licenses sold.</p> <p>(2) Conserve, manage and improve Alaska's aquatic, riparian and upland habitats to ensure sustainability of Alaska's fish and wildlife resources.</p> <p><u>Target:</u> Increase to at least 90% the mitigation of impacts due to human-induced habitat degradation.</p> <p><u>Measure:</u> Percent change in mitigation of impacts due to human-induced habitat degradation.</p> <p><u>Target:</u> Decrease by at least 3% the loss in fishing, hunting, and trapping opportunities due to human-induced habitat degradation.</p> <p><u>Measure:</u> Percent change in fishing, hunting, and trapping opportunities due to human-induced habitat degradation.</p>	<p><u>Measure:</u> Percent change in mitigation of impacts due to watershed development.</p> <p><u>Target:</u> Increase by at least 5% the number of instream flow analyses performed annually.</p> <p><u>Measure:</u> Percent change in number of instream flow analyses performed annually.</p> <p>(3) To meet the demand for a variety of recreational fishing experiences.</p> <p><u>Target:</u> Increase to at least 80% the number of anglers that are satisfied with the variety of recreational fisheries experiences available.</p> <p><u>Measure:</u> Percent change in anglers satisfied with the variety of experiences available.</p> <p><u>Target:</u> Increase the harvest of hatchery-produced fish by 5% over the previous 5-year average.</p> <p><u>Measure:</u> Percent change in harvest of hatchery-produced fish.</p> <p>(4) To maintain a diverse, dedicated, motivated, empowered and effective workforce.</p> <p><u>Target:</u> Increase to at least 90% the number of employees that report being motivated and empowered.</p> <p><u>Measure:</u> Percent change in the number of employees that report being motivated and empowered.</p> <p><u>Target:</u> Increase to at least 90% the number of employees that receive evaluations.</p> <p><u>Measure:</u> Percent change in employees that receive evaluations.</p> <p><u>Target:</u> Increase to at least 90% the number of employees who report having the tools, resources, and skills to be effective in their job.</p> <p><u>Measure:</u> Percent change in employees who report having the tools, resources, and skills to be effective in their job.</p> <p><u>Target:</u> Decrease to less than 10% the number of full-time permanent staff leaving divisional employment.</p> <p><u>Measure:</u> % change in employees leaving.</p> <p>(5) Ensure reasonable public access to and knowledge of the fish and wildlife resources of the state.</p> <p><u>Target:</u> Increase to at least 75% the number of land-related transactions that successfully reserve or maintain legal public access.</p> <p><u>Measure:</u> Percent change in number of reviews in which legal public access was successfully reserved and maintained.</p>

End Results	Strategies to Achieve Results
	<p><u>Target:</u> Increase by at least 5% user satisfaction with the availability of boating access sites. <u>Measure:</u> Percent change in user satisfaction with the availability of boating access sites.</p> <p><u>Target:</u> Increase by 10% the number of special management areas that have established or revised management plans. <u>Measure:</u> Percent change in number of special management areas that have established or revised management plans.</p> <p><u>Target:</u> Provide opportunities for public involvement that result in a 2% reduction in the number of out-of-cycle regulatory change requests to division actions. <u>Measure:</u> Percentage reduction in regulatory change requests.</p> <p>(6) Educate Alaskans about the importance of sustaining Alaska's fish and wildlife resources for future generations.</p> <p><u>Target:</u> Increase participation by Alaskans in information and education programs about fish and wildlife management by 5% over the previous 5-year average. <u>Measure:</u> Percent change in participation in information and education programs.</p>

Major Activities to Advance Strategies	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop measurable and achievable management objectives based on sustained yield principles that are consistent with Alaska's Constitution. • Obtain and report information on the development, achievement, and evaluation of management objectives. • Develop enforceable regulations and emergency orders to achieve management objectives utilizing all available information. • Evaluate if regulations achieve management objectives. • Manage fish aquaculture to preserve sustained yield from wild stocks. • Manage populations of aquatic nuisance species to preserve sustained yield from wild stocks. • Determine the fishing opportunities sought by the angling public with regard to resident, anadromous, and marine fishes. • Develop a range of fishing opportunities, recognizing variation among anglers relative to income, age, experience, ability, & opportunities they seek. • Provide regulators with management options that meet the demand for recreational fishing opportunities. • Publicize fishing opportunities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify, review, and prioritize research needs. • Develop and implement research programs to assess the relationships between fish production and associated habitats. • Inform and educate the public about the results of research projects and the benefits of scientifically sound research. • Develop and support partnerships with other governmental and non-governmental organizations to foster and conduct sound scientific research. • Assess and define habitat critical to key non-game populations. • Develop a comprehensive non-game management plan for populations identified as at risk. • Implement a primary and secondary curriculum focused on stewardship. • Regularly identify and prioritize issues related to stewardship. • Develop and update pamphlets detailing recreational fishing opportunities. • Conduct in partnership w/orgs., kids and family fishing days to develop skills, knowledge, and attitudes needed to be responsible anglers/stewards. • Evaluate constraints on fishing participation and

Major Activities to Advance Strategies

- Enhance fisheries to meet demand, consistent with existing department policies.
- Improve liaison between ADF&G and the Department of Public Safety, Division of Fish and Wildlife Protection in prosecuting violators.
- Increase compliance by providing the public with effective education and guidance as required.
- Encourage public "peer pressure" among anglers to increase compliance with regulations.
- Identify issues that threaten sustainability.
- Support regular communications (phone contacts, meetings, etc.) with stakeholders to discuss management and research activities.
- Provide regulators with social and economic assessments of management options under consideration.
- Develop/review criteria to evaluate the compatibility of public access to fisheries with the aquatic, riparian, and upland habitats they affect.
- Fix problems at existing public access sites where significant damage to habitat has occurred.
- Inform and educate the public about responsible fishing practices that minimize impacts to habitat.
- Develop and support partnerships with other governmental and non-governmental organizations to address responsible public access to fisheries.
- Review and/or develop policies and regulations, and provide advice on laws to promote responsible public access to fisheries.
- Inform and educate the public about responsible aquaculture practices.
- Review and/or develop aquaculture policies and regulations, and provide advice on laws to ensure effective and responsible aquaculture.
- Develop and/or review criteria to evaluate the impacts of aquatic nuisance species.
- Review existing and proposed management practices for aquatic nuisance species.
- Eliminate or minimize present populations of aquatic nuisance species where practical.
- Inform and educate the public regarding issues concerning aquatic nuisance species.
- Review and monitor proposed and existing land and water development projects.
- Review and comment on mitigation associated with land and water development.
- Inform and educate the public regarding responsible land and water development.
- Review and/or develop policies and regulations, and provide advice on laws to ensure responsible land and water development.
- Partner with other state agencies to provide input into permit reviews by the department.
- Develop and/or review criteria on the quantity and quality of water needed to sustain fish, wildlife and vegetation.
- develop approaches for addressing management related constraints.
- Partner with various organizations to publicize opportunities, facilities, and equipment available for disabled anglers.
- Establish principles and guidelines for public involvement.
- Regularly identify and evaluate the significance of emerging issues.
- Develop action plans to address controversial management issues.
- Foster an improved understanding of regulatory processes.
- Monitor our effectiveness in involving and informing the public.
- Develop regional outreach programs to provide I&E on on job types/career opps. w/division, targeting highschool/college level in rural/urban comm.
- Consider using local hires for project support when appropriate, particularly for projects in rural areas.
- Fund/award a min. 4 annual American Fisheries Society Hutton Junior Fisheries Scholarships, at least one from other than FBX, ANCH, JNU.
- Promote merits and quality of work conducted by division employees and the potential for personal and professional accomplishments and contributions.
- Utilize student interns for proj. support where appropriate to expose students to the division and develop skills for employment with the division.
- Provide work experience/training opps. to seasonal/temp. staff so they can excel in current positions and compete for advanced perm/fulltime positions
- Fund at least three graduate-level fishery positions at universities.
- Create a division training program to coordinate the identification of training needs and scheduling of opportunities for training.
- Evaluate employee performance on a scheduled basis/provide opportunity for feedback on supervision/understanding responsibilities/job related needs.
- Reinstate an in-house training program of short courses on technical, administrative, and managerial subjects relative to job success.
- Develop an orientation manual for new employees.
- Develop/cross-train individual staff w/diverse and comprehensive knowledge, skills, and abilities to provide flexibility when balancing workloads.
- Actively promote monetary compensation competitive with other gov. agencies/private industry and communicate efforts to staff annually.
- Establish guidelines and criteria for recognizing achievements by individual staff.
- Ask all employees leaving divisional employment to fill out a confidential "debriefing" questionnaire to address

Major Activities to Advance Strategies

- Identify and prioritize water bodies that need protection or restoration.
 - Review and monitor proposed and existing water use projects.
 - Review and comment on mitigation associated with water uses.
 - Review/develop policies/regulations, provide advice on laws to ensure sufficient water quality/quantity necessary to sustain habitats and fisheries.
- reasons the employee is leaving.
 - Develop an efficient, vertically integrated budgetary system that meets the needs of area, regional, and headquarters staff.
 - Foster a work environment where decision-making skills are developed and recognized and authorities are clearly defined.
 - Foster environment where staff have appropriate level of involvement in decisions affecting their work environment/assigned duties/effectiveness
 - Assert Alaska's sovereignty to manage the state's fishery resources.
 - Review/provide input to Div. of Admin. to ensure a career ladder exists entirely within the division for all job class series including admin. series.
 - Review/provide input to Div. of Admin to ensure minimum qualifications for all job classes are appropriate without being overly restrictive.

FY2005 Resources Allocated to Achieve Results

FY2005 Results Delivery Unit Budget: \$38,454,400	Personnel:	
	Full time	215
	Part time	235
	Total	450

Performance Measure Detail

(1) Result: Sustain recreational fishing opportunities while optimizing social and economic benefits from these opportunities.

Target: Increase to 95% the percentage of stocks of concern (SOC) for which management plans or recovery strategies are implemented.

Measure: Percent of SOC with management plans or recovery strategies that are 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: Reduce by 5% the number of stocks closed to fishing.

Measure: Percent change in stocks closed to fishing.

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 expenditures from recreational fishing by at least 3% above the 2001 level (as measured by the National Survey of Hunting and Fishing).

Measure: Percent change in expenditures.

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 angler participation by at least 3% over most recent 5 year average.

Measure: Percent change in angler participation and in number of licenses sold.

(2) Result: Conserve, manage and improve Alaska's aquatic, riparian and upland habitats to ensure sustainability of Alaska's fish and wildlife resources.

Target: Increase to at least 90% the mitigation of impacts due to human-induced habitat degradation.

Measure: Percent change in mitigation of impacts due to human-induced habitat degradation.

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: Decrease by at least 3% the loss in fishing, hunting, and trapping opportunities due to human-induced habitat degradation.

Measure: Percent change in fishing, hunting, and trapping opportunities due to human-induced habitat degradation.

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: To sustain fisheries and conserve wild stocks with management based on scientifically sound assessments.

Target: Increase by 5% the number of stocks that have sustainable biological management objectives that can be measured and attained.

Measure: Percent change in the number of stocks that have sustainable biological management objectives.

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% the number of biological management objectives that are scientifically evaluated.

Measure: Percent change in the number of biological management objectives that are scientifically evaluated.

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: To minimize immediate and cumulative impacts of land and water development to aquatic, riparian & upland habitats.

Target: Increase to at least 90% the mitigation of impacts due to watershed development.

Measure: Percent change in mitigation of impacts due to watershed development.

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 at least 5% the number of instream flow analyses performed annually.

Measure: Percent change in number of instream flow analyses performed 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) Strategy: To meet the demand for a variety of recreational fishing experiences.

Target: Increase to at least 80% the number of anglers that are satisfied with the variety of recreational fisheries experiences available.

Measure: Percent change in anglers satisfied with the variety of experiences available.

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 the harvest of hatchery-produced fish by 5% over the previous 5-year average.

Measure: Percent change in harvest of hatchery-produced fish.

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: To maintain a diverse, dedicated, motivated, empowered and effective workforce.

Target: Increase to at least 90% the number of employees that report being motivated and empowered.

Measure: Percent change in the number of employees that report being motivated and empowered.

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 to at least 90% the number of employees that receive evaluations.

Measure: Percent change in employees that receive evaluations.

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 to at least 90% the number of employees who report having the tools, resources, and skills to be effective in their job.

Measure: Percent change in employees who report having the tools, resources, and skills to be effective in their job.

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: Decrease to less than 10% the number of full-time permanent staff leaving divisional employment.

Measure: % change in employees leaving.

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: Ensure reasonable public access to and knowledge of the fish and wildlife resources of the state.

Target: Increase to at least 75% the number of land-related transactions that successfully reserve or maintain legal public access.

Measure: Percent change in number of reviews in which legal public access was successfully reserved and maintained.

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 at least 5% user satisfaction with the availability of boating access sites.

Measure: Percent change in user satisfaction with the availability of boating access sites.

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 10% the number of special management areas that have established or revised management plans.

Measure: Percent change in number of special management areas that have established or revised management plans.

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: Provide opportunities for public involvement that result in a 2% reduction in the number of out-of-cycle regulatory change requests to division actions.

Measure: Percentage reduction in regulatory change requests.

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: Educate Alaskans about the importance of sustaining Alaska's fish and wildlife resources for future generations.

Target: Increase participation by Alaskans in information and education programs about fish and wildlife management by 5% over the previous 5-year average.

Measure: Percent change in participation in information and education programs.

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

Sport fishing effort by residents and non-residents, including guided as well as unguided anglers, has increased consistently during the 1980's and early 1990's. This period of rapid growth has been followed by a period of relative stability in terms of participation. The primary issues for this RDU are to assure the sustainability of sport fishing resources and also strive to maintain the quality and character of Alaska's sport fishing opportunities. There are several specific current issues that significantly impact the RDU which include: the decrease in resident license sales during the late 1990s, conservation of important stocks of fish targeted by recreational anglers, allocation of harvest between various resource users, maintenance of access to sport fisheries, and maintenance and restoration of critical habitats that support fish stocks targeted by recreational anglers.

Implementation of the Sustainable Salmon Fisheries Policy (5 AAC 39.222) and the Salmon Escapement Goal Policy (5 AAC 39.223) continue to be issues on which the department and the Board of Fisheries are working. These policies will help ensure the sustainability of the state's salmon stocks.

The public is becoming increasingly aware of the tradeoffs between maximization of sport fishing opportunities and the perceived decline in quality of fishing experience, especially in the road accessible salmon fisheries of southcentral and interior Alaska. This issue is best illustrated in the continuing conflict between guided and unguided chinook salmon anglers on the Kenai River. The division is taking steps to allow for better dissemination of biological information and facilitation of communication and interaction among the user groups so that "win-win" management strategies can be developed and forwarded to the Board of Fisheries for consideration. This process of obtaining information for fishery managers may form a template for approaching these conflicts in other areas of the state.

Management of recreational chinook salmon fisheries in Southeast Alaska is made more complex by the constraints associated with the U.S./Canada Pacific Salmon Treaty, the Endangered Species Act (ESA), and allocation conflict among users. Maintaining the existing sport fishery in light of these complex restraints requires very precise and extensive harvest monitoring as well as participation in the technical processes of the treaty and ESA. Chinook salmon enhancement and intensive stock assessment projects are the primary means of increasing angling opportunity and harvest.

Because of land management policies on some federal as well as private lands, it is increasingly difficult to maintain access to all sport fisheries in Alaska. Addressing these situations as they arise assures that angler access is maintained and, where practical, expanded.

Federal management of subsistence fishing on federal public lands and waters is resulting in a loss of sport fishing opportunity across Alaska. Federal agencies have closed state managed sport and subsistence fisheries for king and chum salmon in the Yukon and Kuskokwim River drainages and for sockeye at Falls Lake, Gut Bay, Pillar Bay, and Redoubt Lake in southeast Alaska and have eliminated the use of nets in state managed subsistence fisheries in the Sarkar River. The state sport fish program will strive to bring the best available scientific information to the federal subsistence decision-making process in an effort to maintain as much sport fishing opportunity as possible while assuring a subsistence priority and sustained yield.

The division will continue with year 4 of a four-year anadromous fish habitat assessment in Southcentral and Interior/Northern Alaska under a \$1 million Coastal Impact Assistance Program grant. Extensive anadromous fish surveys and habitat evaluations will be conducted in the Middle Susitna River drainage, Bristol Bay, Copper River and other priority drainages. The Kachemak Bay Research Reserve will continue to develop long-term research, oceanographic monitoring, education, outreach, and interpretive programs for Kachemak Bay and Lower Cook Inlet. Work continued on updating the Restoration Guide, specifically for evaluating restoration projects on the Kenai Peninsula. Work will continue with off-road vehicle (ORV) dealers and users and landowners on the lower Kenai Peninsula to reduce impacts of ORV trails on fish streams and water quality. Review of hydroelectric development proposals to avoid or minimize adverse effects on fish habitats and human users of fish will also continue.

Halibut are a very important resource to sport fisheries across coastal Alaska. The North Pacific Fisheries Management Council manages all fishing for halibut, including sport fishing. The state sport fish program continues to work with the International Pacific Halibut Commission to collect baseline biological data and with Council staff on important halibut issues.

Significant Changes in Results to be Delivered in FY2005

In FY02, funding was made available through the Southeast Sustainable Salmon Fund to initiate an ecosystem-wide monitoring program for coastwide salmon stocks. In FY05, additional funding has been requested to continue instream flow protection work in the Juneau, Petersburg, and Haines areas, and to develop alternative methods for establishing salmon escapement goals throughout southeast.

Implementation of the Wildlife Conservation Restoration program in FY03 has made additional federal funding available to the department through the Division of Wildlife Conservation. In FY05 funding will be available to the division to expand our efforts to provide educational benefit to recreational fish and wildlife users throughout the state. Funding will provide support for conservation education expansion of volunteer-led aquatic education and water quality monitoring programs, development of educational/interpretive material on the threat posed by invasive aquatic species, technical assistance for

instream flow, outfitting of an aquatic education mobile classroom, development of a non-game and resident fish curriculum, and outdoor stewardship education.

In FY05 the division may receive additional federal funds to expand halibut harvest monitoring programs in the sport fisheries of Southeast and Southcentral Alaska, as well as initiate groundfish stock assessment projects in specific areas experiencing user group conflicts.

Select functions from the re-engineered Habitat and Restoration Division were reprogrammed into the Division of Sport Fish in the FY04 budget. The reprogrammed functions are related to the division's mission and goals. The Sport Fisheries Habitat component will see expanded effort in FY05 only if anticipated sources of outside funding are obtained.

Major RDU Accomplishments in 2003

Research and Technical Services (RTS)

Since 1977, the division's Research and Technical Services unit has annually estimated sport fishing effort, harvest, and catch in all areas of the state. Division staff use these estimates to determine trends in fishing pressure and harvest. Regulatory bodies use them to create regulations to assure sustained yield. Biometricians in RTS provided technical support for over 120 stock assessment and research projects for the division. Biometricians, fisheries scientists, and fisheries biologists in RTS served on committees reviewing the department's escapement goals and represented the state on national and international technical committees. Other RTS staff provided editorial and cataloging services for more than 35 technical reports produced by division staff this fiscal year. RTS staff monitored and reported harvest in several personal-use fisheries through a permitting program. Estimates of harvest by guided anglers were recorded for the fifth year by RTS staff in a charter vessel logbook program. RTS staff were instrumental in establishing minimal levels of instream flows for fish production in streams in SE Alaska proposed for hydropower development. RTS and divisional staff worked in concert to publish scientific works on development of salmon escapement goals and salmon species identification using sonar in national and international journals.

Region I: Southeast

Regulatory issues were addressed for Southeast Alaska in January and February 2003. The primary change made by the Board of Fisheries was to simplify the SE King Salmon Management Plan. The changes to the plan, which were supported by all user groups, were the culmination of more than a year's work by a Board of Fisheries sponsored task force made up of charter operators, lodge owners, and resident sport anglers. The revised king salmon management plan was successfully implemented during the 2003 fishing season. Stock assessment programs continued in all major king and coho salmon producing rivers in SE Alaska. Escapement goals for king salmon were met or exceeded in 9 of 11 index streams, and met or exceeded in all major coho salmon streams. A new steelhead stock assessment project was implemented to determine specific steelhead life history characteristics and develop a methodology for establishing escapement goals. In 2003, this project succeeded, for the first time in Southeast Alaska, to document total in and out migrations of adult and juvenile steelhead. Steelhead smolt were marked using PIT tags to evaluate ocean residence and survival and validate steelhead aging techniques.

Region II: Southcentral

Regulatory issues in Prince William Sound were addressed in February 2003. Changes were made to saltwater sport fishery boundaries that resulted in increased opportunity for recreational anglers targeting Valdez hatchery coho salmon while still minimizing impacts on wild coho stocks. Kenai/Kasilof River early-run king salmon issues were readdressed in March 2003 with a "first for Alaska" no retention size zone (44"-55") for Kenai River kings and a hatchery only fishery for Kasilof early-run kings after a long public process. Two long-term rainbow trout programs began, one in Susitna River drainage and the other in Wood/Tikchik Lakes, to identify spawning and over wintering areas as well as migratory corridors. Data from these programs will increase our knowledge of rainbow trout and allow for responsible development in these areas while assuring stocks are managed for sustained yield. Staffing levels were increased in our I&E program to meet the demand from the public and area offices. Hatchery staff have diligently kept production levels at or near requests despite losing hot water sources due to For Richardson shutting down their power plant. A contract was awarded to estimate costs of replacing existing outdated hatchery facilities versus bringing current facilities up to code.

Region III: Interior

Staff addressed regulatory issues at the PWS/Copper River Board of Fisheries meeting in 2003. Notable regulatory changes from that meeting included changing the Copper River dip-net fishery from a subsistence fishery to a personal use fishery. Staff also conducted both resident species and salmon research in 2003 to prepare for regulatory issues that will be discussed at the AYK Board of Fisheries meeting scheduled for 2004. In preparation for this board meeting staff are worked cross-divisionally to review salmon escapement goals relative to the Sustainable Salmon Policy and to

prepare comments on regulatory proposals. Staff are prepared to present Arctic grayling and stocked waters management plans for the boards consideration. Region III continued working cooperatively to assess key fisheries in Region III that are used by both sport and subsistence fishers.

Statewide: Habitat Permitting, Restoration, and Assessment

With the elimination of the Habitat and Restoration Division, the Division of Sport Fish took over responsibility for issuance of permits on the state's special areas. In addition, existing management plans for the state's special areas are being reviewed and prioritized for updating. A cost-share program in existence since 1995 provided funding for 28 private landowner bank habitat restoration projects on the Kenai River in FY03. A survey of ATV trails and stream crossings in the upper Susitna River drainage was completed. An assessment of the feasibility of using photogrammetry and GIS techniques to detect stream bank positional change over time on the Kenai River was also completed this fiscal year. The Fish Distribution Database was updated to include anadromous waters identified through 2002. Ongoing research and restoration projects include: revisions and an update to the 1998 Streambank Restoration Guide; inventory and restoration of fish passage blockages; and, an ATV trail assessment and planning for the lower Kenai Peninsula. A project to identify and catalog anadromous fish habitat in large areas of southcentral and southwest Alaska resulted in over 200 additions to the Fish Distribution Database. All government oil spill contingency plans and new industry contingency plans were reviewed.

Contact Information

Contact: Kelly Hepler, Director
Phone: (907) 267-2195
Fax: (907) 267-2224
E-mail: kelly_hepler@fishgame.state.ak.us

Sport 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
Formula Expenditures												
None.												
Non-Formula Expenditures												
Sport Fisheries	0.0	11,601.9	11,749.4	23,351.3	0.0	12,234.9	12,480.0	24,714.9	0.0	13,121.9	12,504.1	25,626.0
S.F. Special Projects	0.0	1,451.3	1,968.0	3,419.3	0.0	3,699.8	3,423.1	7,122.9	0.0	2,874.3	3,978.1	6,852.4
Sport Fisheries Habitat	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	265.9	1,189.6	2,176.4	3,631.9	265.9	2,648.9	3,061.2	5,976.0
Totals	0.0	13,053.2	13,717.4	26,770.6	265.9	17,124.3	18,079.5	35,469.7	265.9	18,645.1	19,543.4	38,454.4

Sport 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>
FY2004 Authorized	265.9	17,124.3	18,079.5	35,469.7
Adjustments which will continue current level of service:				
-Sport Fisheries	0.0	387.0	24.1	411.1
-S.F. Special Projects	0.0	-825.5	192.2	-633.3
-Sport Fisheries Habitat	0.0	932.2	639.3	1,571.5
Proposed budget decreases:				
-Sport Fisheries Habitat	0.0	0.0	-566.3	-566.3
Proposed budget increases:				
-Sport Fisheries	0.0	500.0	0.0	500.0
-S.F. Special Projects	0.0	0.0	362.8	362.8
-Sport Fisheries Habitat	0.0	527.1	811.8	1,338.9
FY2005 Governor	265.9	18,645.1	19,543.4	38,454.4