

Seafood Testing and Biomonitoring Project**FY2007 Request: \$750,000****Reference No: AMD 42057****AP/AL:** Appropriation
Category: Health/Human Services**Project Type:** Health and Safety**Location:** Statewide**Contact:** Kristin Ryan, Director**House District:** Statewide (HD 1-40)**Contact Phone:** (907)269-7644**Estimated Project Dates:** 07/01/2006 - 06/30/2007**Brief Summary and Statement of Need:**

This is a new Governor's Amended capital project. This project provides funding to measure the levels of pollutants in Alaska wild fish resources and the subsequent impacts on human health, particularly in the subsistence community. Alaskan Natives have identified Arctic environmental contaminants as one of the top public health priorities facing the state. Large-scale claims of tainted seafood raise unwarranted concerns among all consumers of Alaskan seafood. Lack of consumer confidence will impact the commercial, recreational and subsistence harvest and thus both state and local economies.

Funding:	<u>FY2007</u>	<u>FY2008</u>	<u>FY2009</u>	<u>FY2010</u>	<u>FY2011</u>	<u>FY2012</u>	<u>Total</u>
Gen Fund	\$750,000						\$750,000
Total:	\$750,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$750,000

<input type="checkbox"/> State Match Required	<input type="checkbox"/> One-Time Project	<input type="checkbox"/> Phased - new	<input type="checkbox"/> Phased - underway	<input type="checkbox"/> On-Going
0% = Minimum State Match % Required		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amendment	<input type="checkbox"/> Mental Health Bill	

Operating & Maintenance Costs:

	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Staff</u>
Project Development:	0	0
Ongoing Operating:	0	0
One-Time Startup:	0	0
Totals:	0	0

Additional Information / Prior Funding History:

No prior capital funding has been appropriated to DEC. Prior federal funding and interagency receipts were appropriated in the FY2004 and FY2006 operating budgets, respectively.

Project Description/Justification:

These funds will provide the State with a comprehensive, systematic testing and monitoring program for all of Alaska's seafood products. The federal funds that are available in FY2007 flow through the Southeast Alaska Sustainable Salmon fund, which limits testing to Salmon only and does not support testing for other fish species (halibut, cod, and rockfish) or for human biomonitoring.

Without a systematic and comprehensive monitoring program, Alaska will be unable to respond to federally issued consumption advisories and to questions from commercial buyers of Alaska seafood and recreational users as to the safety of our seafood products. The project will help establish baseline data that is statistically defensible on contaminant levels in different species of seafood in various locations. After a baseline has been established, limited surveillance will monitor for changes in the initial baseline data.

DEC has been collecting data on the contaminant concentrations in Alaskan fishes from marine and freshwater environments since 2002. The results of the chemical analyses and the evaluation of the data by the DHSS are available on the state webpage which can be found at: <http://www.state.ak.us/dec/eh/vet/fish.htm>. Of all the contaminants, mercury and PCBs are of primary health concern for people that consume fish. DHSS has an on-going biomonitoring program to determine the amount of mercury exposure actually occurring among women of childbearing age in Alaska. In

Seafood Testing and Biomonitoring Project

FY2007 Request: \$750,000

Reference No: AMD 42057

In addition, DHSS has performed human biomonitoring for PCBs in nine Alaska communities and pesticides in five communities.

Concurrent with the seafood monitoring this funding will allow monitoring for the levels of contaminants in the human population. This aspect of the project will include biomonitoring, testing among subsistence users for mercury, PCBs and pesticides, testing of ancient human remains for historical mercury data, and developing a database of contaminant levels in seafood.

DEC will manage the fish tissue monitoring program and process and analyze most of the fish samples at the Environmental Health Laboratory in Anchorage. Some samples may be analyzed at a contract laboratory. Human biomonitoring samples will be analyzed in the Alaska Division of Public Health Laboratory. Native and commercial fishermen, biologists from Alaska Department of Fish and Game, NOAA, and the International Halibut Commission will collect fish samples.