

Endangered Species Act Listed Marine Mammals Research FY2011 Request: \$600,000
Reference No: 43347

AP/AL: Appropriation **Project Type:** Research / Studies / Planning
Category: Natural Resources
Location: Statewide **Contact:** Doug Larsen
House District: Statewide (HD 1-40) **Contact Phone:** (907)465-4190
Estimated Project Dates: 07/01/2010 - 06/30/2015

Brief Summary and Statement of Need:

This project leverages federal grant opportunities to conduct research that will expand the State's knowledge base of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) listed marine mammals in Alaska to ensure appropriate implementation of the ESA. The program requires non-federal matching funds. This appropriation will allow the Department to compete for funding. This project contributes to the department's mission by conducting research projects that will increase our knowledge and understanding of ESA listed species, resulting in more informed ESA decisions and minimal unnecessary burden on resource development activities.

Funding:	FY2011	FY2012	FY2013	FY2014	FY2015	FY2016	Total
Fed Rcpts	\$450,000						\$450,000
G/F Match	\$150,000						\$150,000
Total:	\$600,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$600,000

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State Match Required	<input type="checkbox"/> One-Time Project	<input type="checkbox"/> Phased - new	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Phased - underway	<input type="checkbox"/> On-Going
25% = Minimum State Match % Required		<input 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:

\$473,000 Ch. 30, SLA 2007, p. 93, l. 14

Project Description/Justification:

There are several species of marine mammals listed as either endangered or threatened under the ESA and under the National Marine Fisheries Service's (NMFS) jurisdiction that occur in Alaskan waters. ESA regulations are based on a precautionary approach, and less information often results in stronger protection measures. Research projects on marine mammals would be pursued that would obtain information to minimize unnecessary burdens on resource development activities. One ESA listed marine mammal that would receive strong consideration for research funding is the Cook Inlet beluga whale.

Success in conserving these species will depend in large part on working cooperatively with the State of Alaska. The NMFS is authorized to provide federal assistance to eligible States to support the development of conservation programs for marine species that reside within that State. This assistance, provided in the form of grants through the Protected Species Cooperative Conservation (PSCC) program, can be used to support conservation of endangered, threatened, and candidate or

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proposed species. Grant proposals must include a minimum non-federal cost share of 25 percent of the total budget.