

Western Alaska Salmon Stock Identification Program

FY2007

\$700,000

Request:

AMD42050

Reference No:

AP/AL: Appropriation

Project Type: Planning

Category: Natural Resources

Location: Statewide

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House District: Statewide

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Estimated Project Dates: 07/01/2006 - 06/30/2009

Brief Summary and Statement of Need:

Salmon research and stock assessment funding will enable the department to determine fishery impacts on salmon stocks originating in Western Alaska. These salmon stocks are subject to harvest in state managed fisheries and also in federal waters and in international fisheries. The research and monitoring program will provide information on which to base the development of state, federal and international fishery management plans that may impact Western Alaskan stocks. An amendment is being requested as anticipated federal funds to fully fund this project did not materialize. The current federal commitment is \$200,000 per year, for three years.

Funding:	FY2007	FY2008	FY2009	FY2010	FY2011	FY2012	Total
Fed Rcpts	\$200,000	\$200,000	\$200,000				\$600,000
Gen Fund	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000				\$1,500,000
Total:	\$700,000	\$700,000	\$700,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,100,000

<input type="checkbox"/> State Match Required	<input type="checkbox"/> One-Time Project	<input checked="" 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
<u>One-Time Startup:</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Totals:	0	0

Additional Information / Prior Funding History:

None

Project Description/Justification:

Funding is requested for salmon research and stock assessment that will help to determine fishery impacts on salmon stocks originating in Western Alaska. These salmon stocks are subject to harvest in state managed fisheries and also in federal waters and in international fisheries. The research and monitoring program will provide information on which to base the development of state, federal and international fishery management plans that may impact Western Alaskan stocks. While there are differing views on some policy questions pertaining to the conservation and harvest of Western Alaska salmon, the state and affected stakeholders are committed to obtaining the data and scientific analysis that would help inform the policy debate and help generate solutions that could reduce conflict and assure the sustainable use.

This project addresses the departments strategies of ensuring the conservation of natural stocks of fish, shellfish and aquatic plants based on scientifically sound assessments; and sustaining fisheries on stocks of fish, shellfish and aquatic plants based upon the control and regulation of harvests through responsive management systems.

This project will help the department meet the following targets:

- Establish reproductive goals or other baseline biological reference points for all harvested stocks.

This program will analyze up to 30,000 sockeye and chum salmon samples to develop a genetic baseline stock identification tool that should enable the department to distinguish discrete Western Alaska sockeye and chum salmon stocks. The department will sample about 40,000 salmon per year from Western Alaska mixed stock fisheries in 2006 and 2007. The results of this research will enable the department to advise the Board of Fisheries regarding chum and sockeye stock composition in these fisheries, the harvests of which total over 31,266,000 salmon valued at \$117,492,000 (2005 figures). Careful management in these fisheries is key not only to effective conservation but to management that maximizes economic return.

- Meet 80 percent of user group allocation objectives established by the Board of Fisheries by region.

The stock identification tool developed in this project will provide information valuable in developing management plans designed to achieve allocations for commercial seine, gillnet and set net fisheries in the Norton Sound, Yukon, Kuskokwim, Bristol Bay, Alaska Peninsula and Chignik areas subject to 22 fishery management plans, and for subsistence fisheries regulated under nine fishery management plans.

The proposed program will center on tracking the migration and harvest of Western Alaska chum and sockeye salmon stocks, some of which have been designated as stocks of concern under Alaska's Sustainable Salmon Fisheries Policy. This request would support a program to develop a genetic stock identification baseline that will permit the department to take samples from fisheries and determine the river of origin for stocks that contribute to the fisheries and also permit improved estimates of the proportion of the harvest that these comprise in various fisheries. While there is currently a limited ability to determine the origin of chum and sockeye salmon stocks from a broad geographic area, a more detailed genetic baseline is needed so that specific Western Alaska sockeye and chum salmon stocks can be tracked through their migration and harvest in fisheries. With this information, Alaskans will have better tools to develop management plans to conserve specific stocks and address allocation concerns.

The likely costs for the program over three years will total approximately \$2,500.0. The department is requesting \$500.0 in general funds starting in FY07, with the intention to submit additional capital requests for \$500.0 each in FY08, and FY09 to carry out this research effort. It is anticipated that the department will receive \$200.0 in federal funds in each of these years to assist in this research effort. Further, it is anticipated that the \$400.0 balance of the needed funding will be provided by Western Alaska non-governmental organizations that are supportive of this research effort.

Disputes over the information available on the migration and harvest of Western Alaska chum and sockeye salmon have contributed to conflict between regions of our state in the Board of Fisheries regulatory process and most recently fueled the request by many in Western Alaska that the Secretary of the Department of Interior exert extraterritorial jurisdiction over the state's salmon fisheries on the Alaska Peninsula. An investment of state resources to gather information on the migration and harvest of western Alaska salmon will give those on all sides of the issue an improved common scientific basis from which to develop options for fishery management plans that protect the salmon, promote maximum sustained use and support those who depend on the salmon resource.

This funding would support a program that addresses commitments to "seek funding for, and develop further research programs and stock identification studies including programs to gather information about the total fishing mortality of Northwest Alaska chum stocks " entered into by the Department of Fish and Game with the Association of Village Council Presidents, Tanana Chiefs Conference, Bristol Bay Native Association, Kawerak Incorporated, Bering Sea Fishermen's Association Aleutians East Borough, Aleut Corporation, Lake and Peninsula Borough, and Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association.