DEPARTMENT OF FISH & GAME
FY15 Increment Status

Governor's Budget Items Approved as Requested

Item #	Approp/Allocation	Description	Amount/Fund Source	FY15 CC Book Comment	GF Dec?	LFD Notes/Questions?	Dpt Comments/Responses
3	Commercial Fisheries/AYK Region Fisheries Management	Replace Temporary Funding for the Tanana River Sonar Project with Base Funding	$375.0 UGF	The legislature previously appropriated two temporary increments totaling $375.0 UGF to support the operation costs of the Tanana River Sonar project: --$200.0 UGF for FY13 through FY15 --$175.0 UGF for FY14 through FY15 The legislature approved the request to move this funding from temporary increments to the base budget. The objective of this project is to provide daily estimates of king, chum, and coho salmon entering the Tanana River for in-season and post-season use to manage Tanana River fisheries and to provide additional information useful in managing overall Yukon River salmon fisheries.	$ -	What is the status of this project? How many positions are associated with this project?	This project is proceeding as planned with year to date expenditures of $219.7 as of Nov 5, 2014. There are 9 PCNs assigned to this project. In 2014, the Tanana River sonar project began counting and species apportionment operations on June 26, 2014 and operated through September 25. Preliminary estimated passage (with 90% confidence range) is 13,611 (±2,986) Chinook salmon; 170,725 (±3,989) summer chum salmon; 222,705 (±5,435) fall chum salmon; 61104 (±4,071) coho salmon; and 36,102 (±5,710) other species. Due to the unusually early return of Chinook salmon, the project counted approximately 75-85% of the Chinook salmon run to the Tanana River. Preliminary comparisons with estimates from other projects (Pilot Station sonar and Rapids test fishwheel) are very encouraging and we feel the project was able to operate successfully in 2014 despite continuously high water on the Tanana River caused by record rainfall in the interior. Comparisons with other projects is ongoing, but at this time we feel the project is able to produce daily estimates of salmon passage in the Tanana River.

Governor's Budget Items Approved with Modifications

Item #	Approp/Allocation	Description	Gov Request	Amount Approved	FY15 CC Book Comment	GF Dec?	LFD Notes/Questions?	Dpt Comments/Responses
5	Sport Fisheries/Sport Fisheries	Coho Escapement Monitoring at Lewis, Theodore and Talachulitna Rivers, and Lake and Montana Creeks Yetna River Fishwheel Recapture Project	$238.5 UGF	($238.5) UGF $148.5 UGF IncT $90.0 UGF IncT	In FY14, the legislature appropriated $238.5 UGF for Coho Escapement Monitoring at Lewis, Theodore and Talachulitna Rivers, and Lake and Montana Creeks as a temporary increment for FY14-FY16. For FY15, the legislature removed $90.0 UGF from this project in order to fund the Yetna River Fishweel Recapture Project (see below). The legislature moved $90.0 UGF from the Coho Escapement Monitoring at Talachulitna River and Lake Creek project to the Yetna River Fishwheel Recapture Project as a temporary increment for FY15-	$ -	What is the statut of each of these projects?	AR 41652 - Coho Escapement Monitoring at Lewis, Theodore, and Yentna rivers (IncT for FY14-FY16). This project increased the number of Coho salmon escapements assessed in Northern Cook Inlet to include the Yentna River (a west side tributary of the Susitna River), and Lewis and Theodore rivers (west side Cook Inlet). Coho salmon were sampled to estimate age/sex/length composition and a tissue was sampled for a GSI baseline. Projects were already planned for Yentna River and west side Cook Inlet systems to assess Chinook salmon, but assessing Coho salmon required funding to operate through the Coho salmon migration. In calendar 2014 (FY2015) weirs were operated for the final season on the Lewis and Theodore rivers, and a capture-recapture project was conducted to estimate Coho salmon escapement on the Yentna River. Lewis and Theodore weir operations ended earlier than originally planned during the 2014 season due to persistent flooding rendering the weirs inoperable. FY2015 expenditures are still being processed. All funding will be spent by end of FY2015. AR 41652 - This project will increase the number of Coho salmon escapements assessed in Northern Cook Inlet to include the entire Yentna River (on the west side Susitna River). The Coho salmon escapement will be sampled to document the run timing, tag fish, recapture tagged fish, estimate length composition, and collect tissue samples for the GSI baseline. Tagging data collected will allow estimating the inriver abundance of Coho salmon in the Yentna River. The Yentna River fish wheels are in place to assess Chinook salmon, but assessing Coho salmon will require funding to continue operating the fish wheels through the Coho salmon migration. In calendar 2015 (FY2015) radio tags and dart tags will be purchased for Coho salmon tagging operations. All funding will be spent by the end of FY15.

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Legislative Additions and Deletions

Item #	Approp/Allocation	Description	Amount/Fund Source	FY15 CC Book Comment	GF Dec?	LFD Notes/Questions?	Dpt Comments/Responses
6	Commercial Fisheries/ Westward Region Fisheries Management	Legislative Additions	$200.0 Test Fish Receipts (DGF)	The legislature added Test Fish Receipts from Gold King Crab for Red King Crab Research in the Adak and Petrel Banks areas.	$ -	When will research for Red King Crab in the Adak and Petrel Banks areas begin?	"Research is slated to begin spring 2015. There will be 3 PCNs assigned to this project. In cooperation with the Adak Community Development Corporation, the ADFG is proposing to better understand the distribution and abundance of red king crab (RKC) in the region surrounding Adak, Alaska. This project will provide essential information on whether there is a sufficient crab resource to warrant further development of a small-scale fishery. Specifically, a commercial crab vessel and crew will set and haul approximately 100 crab pots per day over a 10 day time period in the waters surrounding Adak. Staff from the ADFG will be onboard during all operations and will collect all catch (e.g., size and number of crab) and effort (eg. Lat/lon and depth of gear) data. Results from this survey will produce distribution and catch per unit effort (CPUE) estimates of RKC and will be used to inform biologists and managers on how to design a more detailed survey (if necessary).