

**Subactivity: Alaska Composite Research and Development  
Line Item: AK Composite Research and Development Program**

**GOAL STATEMENT:**

Provide accurate and timely information and analyses on the biological, ecological, economic, and social aspects of Alaska's fisheries resources and develop, implement, and monitor living marine resource management measures to support the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Strategic Plan goal to "protect, restore, and manage the use of coastal and ocean resources through an ecosystem approach to management."

**BASE DESCRIPTION:**

The FY 2006 conference agreement created a new initiative titled the Alaska Composite Research and Development Program under the Alaska Composite Research and Development subactivity that represents a combination of Alaskan programs, projects and activities that were individually itemized in previous budgets. NOAA, the State of Alaska, and our Alaskan partners—Alaska Native organizations, academia, and non-governmental organizations—will conduct scientific and management activities to ensure future sustainable and abundance-based harvests of these living marine resources. Furthermore, the program will continue longstanding efforts to monitor the recovery of select pinniped and marine mammal species such as Steller sea lions and beluga whales.

The FY 2006 Conference Agreement recognized that the North Pacific had no groundfish fisheries listed as overfished, in part due to the constant monitoring and research that this funding provides. Alaska fisheries landings, in 2004, made up 55% of total U.S. landings by weight (5.36 billion pounds), and accounted for over 32% of the total value (\$1.17 billion). Two of the Nation's top three fishing ports, in terms of highest dollar value for commercial landings, are in Alaska. In 2004, Dutch Harbor-Unalaska moved the most fish of any port--886.4 million pounds for a total dollar value of \$155 million. Kodiak, Alaska, was not far behind generating \$91 million for 312.6 million pounds of fish landed.

This new initiative reflects the Office of Management and Budget and Office of Science and Technology Policy's FY 2007 Research and Development Budget Priorities by supporting technological innovation that spurs economic competitiveness. Alaska's fisheries management requires data and research on over 900,000 square miles of ocean within the Exclusive Economic Zone off Alaska's coast. These funds are critical to provide data collection, analysis and further resource development of these fisheries. Equally important, the Alaska Composite Research and Development Program will provide continued economic opportunity for the State of Alaska and its numerous coastal communities.

**PROPOSED LEGISLATION:**

None.

**SUMMARIZED FINANCIAL DATA**

(Dollars in thousands)

| Subactivity: Alaska Composite Research and Development   | FY 2005 ACTUALS | FY 2006 CURRENTLY AVAILABLE | FY 2007 BASE PROGRAM | FY 2007 ESTIMATE | INCREASE / DECREASE |
|--|-----------------|-----------------------------|----------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| Line Item: AK Composite Research and Development Program |                 |                             |                      |                  |                     |
| <b>TOTAL</b>   | -               | 50,298                      | 29,724               | 36,448           | 6,724               |
| <b>FTE</b>   | -               | -                           | -                    | -                | -                   |

Note: The dollars in this table represent budget authority.

**PROGRAM CHANGES FOR FY 2007:**

**Alaska Composite Research and Development Program (0 FTE and +\$6,724,000)** – NMFS requests a net increase of 0 FTE and \$6,724,000 from the FY 2007 base for a total of \$36,448,000 to support science, research, and management of Alaskan living marine resources. NMFS’ request includes long-standing support for the co-management of Alaska Native marine mammals, grants for marine mammal, finfish and crustacean research, and monitoring and survey activities for groundfish.

**Statement of Need**

The FY 2006 *Science, State, Commerce, Justice, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act* enacted funding for a new budget line titled the Alaska Composite Research and Development Program that focused upon Alaska fisheries and marine mammals. The appropriations bill enacted a significant consolidation of the NMFS budget resulting in the realignment of approximately 50 budget lines into a single PPA (Program, Project, or Activity) for the conservation and management of Alaska fisheries and marine mammals.

The Commerce, Justice, Science Subcommittee of the Senate Appropriations Committee recognized that Alaska fisheries management requires data and research on over 900,000 square miles of ocean within the Exclusive Economic Zone off Alaska’s coast. These funds are critical to provide data collection, analysis and further resource development of these fisheries in order to provide continued economic opportunity for the State and its numerous coastal communities. These funds are critical to provide data collection, analysis and further resource development of these fisheries in order to provide continued economic opportunity for the State of Alaska and its numerous coastal communities.

## **Proposed Action**

The FY 2007 President's Request focuses on NMFS' core responsibilities including essential assessment surveys and management actions on fish, crabs, and protection and conservation of marine mammals under the Marine Mammal Protection Act. In the past, NMFS has actively collaborated with other entities in Alaska (independent research institutions, the State of Alaska, the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council, the fishing industry, Alaska coastal communities, and other stakeholders) to conduct marine mammal and crustacean research, monitor Alaska groundfish and salmon stocks, encourage community involvement in the co-management of native marine species, sponsor commission participation at international meetings such as the International Whaling Commission. The FY 2007 President's Request does not seek funding for non-essential Congressionally-directed budget lines that cover administrative services to industry and community commissions. Funds will go to the Alaska Regional Office and Alaska Fisheries Science Center to conduct assessment and management activities for Alaska finfish (pollock and other groundfish, halibut/sablefish), crustaceans (crab), and salmon. Two of the Nation's top four fishing ports, in terms of highest dollar value for commercial landings, are in Alaska. Base funds will also support assessment and conservation activities for Alaska whales, seals and sea lions. The remaining \$6,969,000 will be provided to the state of Alaska, Non-Governmental Organizations, and Alaska native partners for research and co-management activities.

## **Benefits**

The North Pacific has no fisheries listed as endangered, in part due to the constant monitoring and research that this funding provides. NMFS' support of the Alaska Composite Research and Development line will lead to a better understanding living marine resources and will provide for sustainable and abundance-based harvests. The interactions of fisheries and marine mammals are the subject of intensive research in many parts of the world, and will be a major focus of research in the North Pacific for many years to come.

## **Performance Goals and Measurement Data**

The total request of \$36,448,000 will support the objective "Enhance the conservation and management of coastal and marine resources to meet America's economic, social, and environmental needs" under the Department of Commerce strategic goal to "Observe, protect, and manage the Earth's resources to promote environmental stewardship." Specifically, this increase supports the NOAA Goal to "Protect, restore, and manage the use of coastal and ocean resources through an ecosystem approach to management."

The Alaska Composite Research and Development Program indirectly supports the following performance measures:

| <b>Performance Goal 3:<br/>Ecosystem Performance Measurements</b>                          | <b>FY 2005</b> | <b>FY 2006</b> | <b>FY 2007</b> | <b>FY 2008</b> | <b>FY 2009</b> | <b>FY 2010</b> |
|--|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Percentage of Fish Stocks with Adequate Population Assessments and Forecasts. <sup>1</sup> |                |                |                |                |                |                |
| Without Increase<br><i>Assumes level funding at FY 2006 request</i>                        | 55.7%          | 57.0%          | 55.2%          | 54.1%          | 53.0%          | 52.0%          |
| With Increase to SLMR and Gulf of Mexico   | 55.7%          | 57.0%          | 55.2%          | 56.1%          | 55.0%          | 53.9%          |

<sup>1</sup> This is a component of the NMFS GPRA measure Percentage of Living Marine Resources (LMR) with Adequate Population Assessments and Forecasts.

This is a new measure for FY 2007.

| <b>Performance Goal: <i>Ecosystems</i></b>  | <b>FY2005</b> | <b>FY 2006</b> | <b>FY 2007</b> | <b>FY 2008</b> | <b>FY 2009</b> | <b>FY 2010</b> |
|---|---------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| <b>Performance Measure:</b><br><i>Increase the Fish Stock Sustainability Index (FSSI)</i> |               |                |                |                |                |                |
| Without Increase  | 500.5         | 510.5          | 512.5          | 514.5          | 516            | 530.5          |
| With Increase   | 500.5         | 510.5          | 512.5          | 514.5          | 516            | 544            |

**TERMINATIONS FOR FY 2007:** The following programs, or portions thereof, have been terminated in FY 2007: AK Composite Research and Development (\$18,969,000).