

Fish and Wildlife Management

		FY 2005 Actual	FY 2006 Enacted	FY 2007			Change From 2006 (+/-)
				Fixed Costs & Related Changes (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)	Budget Request	
Fish and Wildlife Management							
Anadromous Fish Management	\$(000)	10,071	10,190	+174	-23	10,341	+151
	FTE	83	83		0	83	0
Fish & Wildlife Assistance	\$(000)	43,011	44,739*	+499*	-4,536	40,703	-4,036
	FTE	236	236		0	236	0
Marine Mammals	\$(000)	4,522	4,370	+41	-1,967	2,443	-1,927
	FTE	21	21		0	21	0
Total, Fish & Wildlife Mgmt	\$(000)	57,604	59,299	+714	-6,526	53,487	-5,812
	FTE	340	340		0	340	0

* This reflects a permanent internal transfer not reflected in the Department of the Interior's support table. The Service's 2007 budget request includes this technical adjustment to correctly reflect this transfer.

Summary of FY 2007 Program Changes for Fish and Wildlife Management

Request Component	Amount	FTE
Program Changes		
• Anadromous Fish Management Program Management Savings	-23	0
• Fish & Wildlife Assistance Program Management Savings	-90	0
• ANS Control/Invasive Alien Species	-75	0
• Fish Health/Whirling Disease	-1,473	0
• Wildlife Health Center in Montana	-493	0
• Regional Mark Processing Center	-246	0
• National Partnership Management of Wild & Native Coldwater Fisheries	-985	0
• Montana Whirling Disease Foundation	-394	0
• Washington State Mass Marking	-1,970	0
• National Fish Passage Program	+1,354	0
• Great Lakes Fish & Wildlife Restoration Program	-493	0
• National Fish Habitat Initiative	+2,000	0
• Washington Hatchery Improvement – Scientific Review Group	-246	0
• Washington Hatchery Improvement – Long Live the Kings	-246	0
• Fish & Wildlife Assistance – General Program Activities	-1,177	0
• Marine Mammals General Program Activities	-1,958	0
• Marine Mammals Program Management Savings	-9	0
Total, Program Changes	- 6,526	0

Program Overview

Conservation through Cooperation, Communication, and Consultation

The Fish and Wildlife Management Program (FWM) uses a cooperative and collaborative approach with states, tribes, federal agencies, foreign governments, and private citizens to restore, manage, and conserve the health of nationally significant fish, marine mammals, wildlife, other aquatic animals, and the habitats upon which they depend. This program subactivity implements DOI's Resource Protection Goal of *sustaining biological communities on DOI managed and influenced lands and waters*.

Activities include conducting scientific assessment of habitats and populations; providing expertise and leadership in the development of resource plans; protecting native populations from the threats of aquatic nuisance species; restoring degraded habitats; and opening up fish passage by removing or bypassing artificial barriers. These activities are evaluated through program performance measures that roll up under each of the three DOI Intermediate Outcome Goals of *creating habitat conditions for biological communities to flourish, managing populations to self-sustaining levels for specific species, and improving information base, information management and technical assistance*.

The Fish and Wildlife Management Program also leads the Service's efforts to fulfill Tribal trust responsibilities by providing technical assistance and expertise, training Tribal members in the management of fish and wildlife resources, and consulting with tribes regarding fish and wildlife resources for which the Service is responsible. FWM activities for tribes effectively support the DOI Serving Communities Goal of *fulfilling Indian fiduciary trust responsibilities*.

Fisheries Strategic Vision – Establishing Program Priorities

Conserving America's Fisheries: the Fisheries Program Vision for the Future, is a product of collaboration with a broad array of stakeholders that focuses the Fisheries Program on several priority areas. In FY 2003, the Fisheries Program began implementing the *Vision* through the preparation of Regional implementation plans, in consultation with states and other partners. These Regional plans identify performance measures, goals, and targets that support end outcome goals in the DOI Strategic Plan and will supplement the comprehensive state wildlife action plans.

The draft *National Fisheries Program Strategic Plan Fiscal Years 2004-2008* (Plan), incorporating the *Vision*, the Regional implementation plans, and the performance measures and goals, is nearing final approval. Since 2004, the Plan has been utilized in planning and prioritization at all Fisheries program levels. Annual goals and performance targets have been incorporated into regional and national versions of the Plan.

FWM utilizes the Fisheries Information System (FIS), an internal reporting system that tracks accomplishments, status and trends of populations of federal trust species, and unfunded operational needs. FIS modules include the Populations Module, Accomplishment Module, and the Fisheries Operational Needs System (FONS). FIS is a database in which the Program records resource needs and accomplishments, and organizes them for Regional and national reporting. The FONS module tracks unmet resource needs and allows managers to better plan and prioritize projects. Upon completion of the fiscal year, all Fisheries Program offices enter accomplishments in the FIS Accomplishments Module, indicating performance targets met, outputs produced, and other essential information. The Populations Module is a national, science-based database that identifies populations of native freshwater and anadromous federal trust species, along with location, status, trends, and associated evidence. This information can be analyzed to identify gaps in the dataset and to identify corresponding actions needed (monitoring and assessment, recovery planning, etc.) to effectively manage populations.

Use of Cost and Performance Information

- The Fisheries Program (Fish and Wildlife Management) is working to become more habitat-based to target root causes of aquatic resource declines, and increase effectiveness in reversing declines. The program will re-orient its activities toward priorities identified through Fish Habitat Partnerships, under the guidance of the *National Fish Habitat Action Plan*. Through the Fish Passage Program, FWM accomplishes on-the-ground habitat restoration, and uses performance data to direct fiscal resources to Regions that consistently achieve results.
- Fish and Wildlife Management tracks costs through Activity Based Costing, links costs to performance, and utilizes the information for program management. For example, in FY 2005, the program used ABC data to track progress in becoming more habitat-based, and used cost-performance data to explore alternative funding allocation methods.
- The Fisheries Program uses the Fisheries Information System (FIS) and the Fish Passage Decision Support System to track outcomes, performance, and cost drivers (e.g. populations, fish barriers). By March 2006, FIS will be integrated into ECOS (the Service's Environmental Online Conservation System), to provide a central access point and integrated analysis tools for program management information.
- The Fisheries Program underwent an evaluation of its effectiveness by a diverse external team organized by the Sport Fishing and Boating Partnership Council. The program was evaluated against goals in its strategic plan, and judged to be Effective in conducting its aquatic resource management activities in FY 2004.
- In FY 2006, Fish and Wildlife Management will begin to use SAMMS (Service Asset and Maintenance Management System) to track maintenance needs and costs for its inventory of vehicles, boats, and other equipment. FWM's use of SAMMS will be integrated with the National Fish Hatchery System to achieve efficiencies.
- The Fisheries Program underwent a comprehensive analysis of its financial status for FY 2001-2004. The analysis will be updated for FY 2005 and future years to track financial trends for management purposes.
- Fish and Wildlife Management conducted a workforce study of its professional and technical job series, completed in February 2005. FWM is currently validating the staffing model from the study, to provide an objective basis for allocating program changes.
- The Aquatic Nuisance Species Program participates with the National Invasive Species Council-coordinated the Invasive Species Cross-cut Budget, which encourages Federal coordination and cooperation on invasive species issues that benefit from an interagency approach. In FY 2006, the ANS Program contributed to cross-cut initiatives on Prevention through Education, Early Detection and Rapid Response, Improvement of Ballast Water Management and Research Efforts, Aquatic Area Monitoring, Asian Carp, Brown Tree Snake, and Innovative Control Methodologies. We plan to actively participate with the National Invasive Species Council on cross-cutting, multi-agency invasive species initiatives in FY 2007 as they are developed with States and other Federal Agencies.
- The Marine Mammal Program continues to improve and implement population surveys in partnership with USGS/BRD and to assess subsistence harvest levels and trends of sea otters, walrus, and polar bears in Alaska. This information is used to make cost projections for long term monitoring strategies that assess the status and trends of marine mammal populations, and fiscal resources are targeted to the most effective and efficient strategies.

Program Performance Overview: Fish and Wildlife Management

End Outcome Goal: <u>Resource Protection</u> - Sustain Biological Communities on DOI Managed and Influenced Lands and Waters in a Manner Consistent with Obligations Regarding the Allocation and Use of Water							
Measure	FY 2005 Plan	FY 2005 Actual	Change from 2005 Plan	FY 2006 Enacted	FY 2006 Change from FY 2005 Actual	FY 2007 Request	FY 2007 Change from FY 2006
% of species of management concern that are managed to self-sustaining levels, in cooperation with affected States and others, as defined in approved management plans. (SP)	14% 23/165	30% 59/199	+16% +36/34	37% 65/174	—	29% 60/206	-16% ¹ -5/32
% of aquatic threatened and or endangered populations, prescribed as necessary in Recovery Plans that become self-sustaining in the wild. (SP)	15% 67/461	9% 38/416	-7% -29/+20	22% 97/435	+14% +59/-46	22% 97/435	+0% +0/+0
% of aquatic candidate populations for which FWMA conducts conservation actions (SP)	UNK ²	83% 10/12	—	33% 3/9	-50% -8/-9	25% 3/12	-8% +1/+9
Intermediate Outcome: Create habitat conditions for biological communities to flourish.							
Intermediate Outcome Measures (Key and Non-Key) and Bureau and PART Outcome Measures							
<i>Habitat Restoration:</i> Number of acres and stream/shoreline miles restored or enhanced to achieve habitat conditions to support species conservation (SP)							
Wetland acres.....	538	538	0	1,621	+1,083	1,654	+33
Upland acres.....	130	130	0	166	+36	166	0
Stream/shoreline miles.....	200	286	+86	124	-162	178	+54
Habitat restoration: # of acres/miles re-opened to fish passage (BUR)							
Acres.....	14,851	1,518	-13,333	1,440	-78	14,389	+12,949
Miles.....	3,635	1,179	-2,456	556	-623	4,643	+4,087
Annually conduct X surveys for early detection of aquatic invasive species (BUR)	43	494	+451	38	-456	35	-3
Annually control/manage X aquatic invasive species populations (FWMA/ANS) (BUR)	11	11	0	11	0	8	-3
Efficiency and other Output measures							
# of fish passage barriers removed or bypassed (BUR)	290	123	-167	71	-24	111	+40
Intermediate Outcome: Manage populations to self-sustaining levels for specific species.							
Intermediate Outcome Measures (Key and Non-Key) and Bureau and PART Outcome Measures							

Efficiency and other Output measures							
# of management plans in development, completed, or revised (BUR)	342	200	-142	400	+200	400	0
# of population assessments completed (BUR)	1,744	1,585	-159	916	-669	900	+16
# of habitat assessments completed (BUR)	937	873	-64	264	-609	312	+48
# miles of in-stream and shoreline habitat assessed (BUR)	38,871	38,507	-364	1,235	-37,272	1,455	+220
# of aquatic outreach and education events (BUR)	197	UNK ²	—	350	—	350	0
Measure	FY 2005 Plan	FY 2005 Actual	Change from 2005 Plan	FY 2006 Enacted	FY 2006 Change from FY 2005 Actual	FY 2007 Request	FY 2007 Change from FY 2006
End Outcome Goal: Serving Communities - Fulfill Indian Fiduciary Trust Responsibilities							
Intermediate Outcome: Improve Indian Fiduciary Trust Beneficiary Services							
Intermediate Outcome Measures (Key and Non-Key) and Bureau and PART Outcome Measures							
Efficiency and other Output measures							
# of training sessions (BUR)	27	101	+74	63	-38	63	0
# of new or modified cooperative agreements or Intergovernmental Personnel Act Agreements (BUR)	56	36	-20	58	+28	58	0
# of Tribal consultations (BUR)	104	571	+467	55	-516	33	-22

¹ This change results from a change in counting methodology. FY 2006 enacted performance is the sum of Regional performance targets established independently at the discretion of each Region. Performance for the FY 2007 request was compiled at the national level and reflects the total number of species represented in Regional population lists queried from the Fisheries Information System.

² UNK denotes data are unknown because the Program did not collect data in those years.

³ In FY2005, this measure was divided into three categories to report Fisheries Program performance independently for 1) populations of management concern, 2) candidate populations, and 3) threatened and endangered populations. Performance information specific to candidate and threatened and endangered populations is currently being collected and will be reported as accomplishments for the Program beginning in FY2006.

⁴ Performance information for this measure is still being collected; data is incomplete at this time.

Program Element		FY 2005 Actual	FY 2006 Enacted	FY 2007			Change From 2006 (+/-)
				Fixed Costs & Related Changes (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)	Budget Request	
Anadromous Fish Management	\$(000)	10,071	10,190	+174	-23	10,341	+151
	FTE	83	83		0	83	0

Summary of FY 2007 Program Changes for Anadromous Fish Management

Request Component	Amount	FTE
Program Changes		
Program Management Savings	-23	0
TOTAL, Program Changes	-23	0

Justification of 2007 Program Changes

The FY 2007 budget request for Anadromous Fish Management is \$10,341,000 and 83 FTE, a net program decrease of \$23,000 from the FY 2006 enacted level.

Program Management (-\$23,000)

To enable the Service to address its highest priorities during constrained fiscal times, the Service proposes reducing program administrative funding by \$1,980,000. Using Activity Based Cost information and other budgetary analyses, the Service anticipates achieving a savings of \$23,000 in Anadromous Fish Management. These savings will be realized by streamlining program administrative support activities.

Program Overview

The Anadromous Fish Management (AFM) program is one of three program elements within the FWM subactivity. Activities conducted by AFM are similar to those conducted by Fish and Wildlife Assistance, so that performance under the two budget elements cannot be distinguished. It conserves and manages anadromous (migratory) fishery resources and their habitat, consistent with DOI’s Resource Protection Strategic Goal of *sustaining biological communities*, and all three Intermediate Outcome Goals of *creating habitat conditions for biological communities to flourish, managing populations to self-sustaining levels, and improving information base, information management, and technical assistance*.

AFM focuses on culturally and economically significant species, such as Pacific salmon, Atlantic salmon, American shad, sturgeon, and striped bass, with particular emphasis on improving aquatic habitat, conducting population assessments, and developing cooperative interjurisdictional management plans. All projects are conducted in concert with partners to enhance the effectiveness of AFM financial resources, and to more effectively conserve interjurisdictional fishery resources.

2007 Program Performance Estimates

In 2007, AFM will focus on increase management efficiency of anadromous fishery resources on several new fronts. Key anadromous species managed with involvement by the Service include Pacific salmon, Atlantic salmon, striped bass, American shad, river herring, and anadromous stocks of rainbow trout and brook trout. The Service will use the National Fish Habitat Initiative to prioritize projects that will benefit anadromous species in coastal areas, by protecting and restoring coastal habitats and supplementing State assessments of anadromous fish stocks.

The President's Ocean Action Plan has facilitated a joint effort between the Service and NOAA Fisheries to better manage ocean resources. Focus areas to benefit anadromous fishery resources includes (1) the establishment of guidelines and procedures for the use of science in fisheries management; (2) the establishment of an implementation plan for reporting international, illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing and (3) the development of procedures and guidelines for the allocation of individual fishing quotas. By facilitating sound science in fisheries management, NOAA Fisheries and the Service will be improving the management of all coastal aquatic species, including anadromous fish species. The establishment of an implementation plan for reporting international, illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing will help decrease poaching of our nation's anadromous fish resources. The development of guidelines and procedures for the allocation of individual fishing quotas has the potential to help decrease fishing pressure and harvest on anadromous fish stocks of particular concern.

The ongoing development of a national MOU between the Service and NOAA Fisheries will more clearly define Federal jurisdiction of anadromous fishery resources while simultaneously increasing management efficiency and maximizing monitoring efforts of anadromous species on a national level. The annual winter striped bass tagging cruise, a joint effort between the States, the Service and NOAA Fisheries, may be combined with another research cruise to decrease operational cost and double the personnel dedicated to striped bass tagging efforts.

2006 Planned Program Performance

In 2006, AFM is focusing more on improving anadromous fish habitat and conducting genetic population assessments to help managers delineate genetic distinctions among different populations of aquatic species, expand genetic baselines, and enhance recovery planning for listed species. Projects to improve anadromous fish habitat include (1) restoring fish passage for anadromous species including spring-run chinook salmon and steelhead, (2) restoring riparian and instream habitat, and (3) restoring historic access, flows, and water quality for shad, striped bass, and other aquatic species. Specifically, AFM will focus on:

Aquatic Species Conservation and Management

- Participating on recovery teams that develop and implement recovery plans (sturgeon, bull trout, and freshwater mussels), and monitor and evaluate hatchery fish performance compared to wild populations of rare or declining native fish species.
- Continuing to support Atlantic salmon recovery in coordination with the states and other partners, implementing fish culture protocols to maintain genetic diversity, collecting information on natural production to prioritize habitat restoration and supplementation efforts, and coordinating with cooperators on wild stock recovery.

- Working with the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission to monitor and restore depleted Atlantic coastal fish populations of American eel, striped bass, Atlantic sturgeon, shad, and river herring, and fairly allocate recovered fisheries through cooperative regulatory planning.

Aquatic Habitat Conservation and Management

- Assessing the effects of carbaryl on physiological and behavioral traits of coastal cutthroat trout in Willapa Bay.
- Conducting a comprehensive survey for bull trout, and other fish species in the Quilcene River drainage, to assess whether Quilcene NFH facilities pose a barrier to these species.
- Working with the NFHS to ensure that species that they are producing for Recovery of listed species are also a priority for AFM.

Cooperation with Native Americans

- Providing technical expertise and assistance to Tribes through such activities as management plan development, population assessment, and habitat restoration, and developing training programs to enhance fish and wildlife management efforts.

Leadership in Science and Technology

- Publishing applied research in peer-reviewed scientific journals in order to disseminate information and ensure that information is state-of-the-art, scientifically sound, and legally defensible.

2005 Program Performance Accomplishments

The Anadromous Fish Management program accomplished the following tasks with the \$10.071 million appropriated in FY 2005:

Aquatic Species Conservation and Management

- Supported the recovery of listed fish species including Atlantic salmon and shortnose sturgeon in the Northeast Region; bull trout, Pacific salmon, and Pacific lamprey in the Pacific Region; and Gulf sturgeon and pallid sturgeon in the Southeast Region through recovery plan development, population assessment, and habitat assessment and restoration.
- Completed 16 new cooperative management plans, including recovery, restoration, and fishery management plans, and habitat plans with the leadership or support of AFM. Developed or revised an additional 20 management plans.
- Conducted assessments of 237 aquatic populations of federal trust species, thereby providing scientific information critical to the development and refinement of management plans, and for the improvement of fisheries decision making. Assessments include marking and tagging fish, genetic sampling, and quantitative stock assessments, and provided important status and trend data for federally listed and /or depleted populations.

Aquatic Habitat Conservation and Management

- Restored 56 miles of stream and riparian habitat, removing non-native species, restoring natural stream flows, planting native vegetation, stabilizing decommissioned roads, and fencing lands to exclude livestock access. These projects increased habitat diversity, while decreasing water temperature, nutrient loading, and fine sediment in spawning areas.

- Opened 2,793 acres and 176 miles of historical habitat to fish passage by removing or bypassing 16 barriers through dam removal, culvert and road crossing renovation, renovating or screening irrigation diversions, and constructing fishways.
- Completed 62 habitat assessments that determined critical habitat of listed populations, identified degraded habitats and areas needing enhancement or restoration, and improved management of interjurisdictional fisheries.

Cooperation with Native Americans

- Completed 16 cooperative agreements to involve Tribes in the recovery and restoration of culturally important species.
- Conducted 84 tribal consultations requesting information from tribal governments regarding fish and wildlife management for which trust responsibilities and other fiduciary obligations are attached to the United States.

Leadership in Science and Technology

- Developed GIS and other databases to improve recovery and fisheries management decisions, including identifying all known freshwater mussel records from the northeast Gulf of Mexico ecosystem.

Program Element		FY 2005 Actual	FY 2006 Enacted	FY 2007			Change From 2006 (+/-)
				Fixed Costs & Related Changes (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)	Budget Request	
Fish and Wildlife Assistance	\$(000)	43,011	44,739	+499*	-4,536	40,703	-4,036
	FTE	236	236		0	236	0

* This reflects a permanent internal transfer not reflected in the Department of the Interior's support table. The Service's 2007 budget request includes this technical adjustment to correctly reflect this transfer.

Summary of FY 2007 Program Changes for Fish & Wildlife Assistance

Request Component	Amount	FTE
Program Changes		
• National Fish Passage Program	+1,354	0
• National Fish Habitat Initiative	+2,000	0
• General Program Activities	-1,177	0
• Aquatic Nuisance Species	-75	0
• Regional Mark Processing Center	-246	0
• Washington State Mass Marking	-1,970	0
• Great Lakes Fish & Wildlife Restoration Program	-493	0
• WA Hatchery Improvement – Scientific Review Group	-246	0
• WA Hatchery Improvement – Long Live the Kings	-246	0
• Fish Health/Whirling Disease	-1,473	0
• Wildlife Health Center in Montana	-493	0
• National Partnership Management of Wild & Native Coldwater Fisheries	-985	0
• Montana Whirling Disease Foundation	-394	0
• Program Management Savings	-90	0
TOTAL, Program Changes	-4,536	0

Justification of 2007 Program Changes

The FY 2007 budget request for Fish and Wildlife Assistance is \$40,703,000 and 236 FTE, a net program decrease of \$4,536,000 from the FY 2006 enacted level. To align funding with the appropriate program, \$1.473 million in funding for fish health/whirling disease is being transferred to Hatchery Operations.

National Fish Passage Program (+1,354,000)

Fish passage funds are allocated to the Service's Regions to remove or bypass barriers (e.g., irrigation diversions, low-head dams, culverts, etc.), conduct barrier inventories, and monitor ongoing or completed fish passage projects. The increase in funding will facilitate the removal of an additional 13 barriers and restore fish access to an additional 4,087 miles and 12,949 acres in 2007. Since its inception in 1999, and in cooperation with over 166 partners, the Program supported 325 projects, removing or bypassing 270 barriers, restoring access to over 5,000 miles of river and 75,000 acres of wetlands for fish spawning and growth.

A modest portion of the increase will accelerate development of the Fish Passage Decision Support System, a web-based modeling tool that provides science-based data for barrier removal scenarios. The use of this system will help identify and rank projects that yield the maximum benefit to the resource and to a variety of stakeholders by updating national barrier information and adding fish population data. The system helps meet public demand for more effective, cost-efficient delivery of information via enhanced data coordination and electronic technology. In Alaska, Arizona, Georgia, Iowa, North Carolina, and Missouri, the program will employ the system within a partnership of state and federal agencies to inventory barriers, assess habitat upstream of barriers, develop prioritization protocols, and assist in design and implementation of fish passage projects for listed and other Federal trust species, including salmon, Apache trout, Niangua darter, Carolina heelsplitter, Etowah darter, and spotfin chub.

Increased funding will enable the Service, for the first time, to provide engineering capabilities to assist partners through the Fish Passage Program, enhancing our ability to incorporate new technologies and improve the design and construction of fishways, eelways, and bypasses for fish and mollusks. In addition, the Service will support training for local highway engineers in state-of-the-art design and implementation of fish-friendly culverts and road-crossings.

Funding will support Regional Fish Passage Coordinators to enhance field-level leadership and coordination, bringing together priorities and activities for the Partners for Fish and Wildlife, Coastal, and Endangered Species programs to restore fish passage and enhance recovery of listed species. In particular, projects will be identified and implemented that will benefit Apache, Gila, and greenback cutthroat trout, in an effort to complement activities to be conducted by the National Fish Hatchery System intended to achieve the recovery and down- or de-listing of these species in the near future. Coordinators will also facilitate collaboration and implementation of state Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategies and Tribal Wildlife Grants. The Service will continue to foster coordination of the Fish Passage Program with other Service programs, as well as our partners in support of the Open Rivers Initiative, a new grant program in NOAA Fisheries. The Service will work in collaboration with these partners to prioritize projects, collaborate on implementation, cost share when possible, and develop standard practices for assessment and monitoring, to improve the effectiveness of these complementary programs.

As examples, projects identified in FONS that are ready for implementation include:

- In Arizona and New Mexico, improvement of fish passage for threatened Apache trout and endangered Gila trout by implementing high priority culvert and stream crossing improvement projects.
- In Utah, removal of 2 barriers on the Ute Indian Reservation; removal of 1 barrier each in Mann's, Thompson's and Kobell's creeks; and removal of 6 barriers in 4 streams on the Goshute Indian Reservation opening access to over 25 miles of spawning habitats for Colorado River and Bonneville cutthroat trouts.
- In Washington, removal of 2 barriers in Silver Creek, re-opening 11 miles of stream habitat to anadromous and resident fish including coho salmon, searun and resident coastal cutthroat and steelhead trout, and potentially bull trout.
- In Alaska, replacement of culverts with bridges at the 1200 and Upper Oilwell roads in Silver Salmon Creek, opening access to over 5 miles of key spawning and rearing habitats for Chinook, pink, and coho salmon, as well as Dolly Varden char.

Total Performance Change		+12,949 Acres re-opened to fish passage +4,087 Miles reopened to fish passage +13 Fish passage barriers removed or bypassed			
	A	B	C	D=B+C	E
Overall Performance Changes from 2006 to 2007					
Measure	2006 Enacted Performance	2007 Base Performance	2007 Impact of Program Change on Performance	2007 Budget Request Performance	Out-year Impact of 2007 Program Change on Performance
Habitat restoration: # of acres/miles re-opened to fish passage (BUR)					
Acres.....	1,440	1,440	+12,949	14,389	0
Miles.....	556	556	+4,087	4,643	0
# of fish passage barriers removed or bypassed (BUR)	71	71	+13	84	0
<p>Column B: The performance level expected to be achieved absent the program change (i.e., at the 2006 request level plus/minus funded fixed cost/related changes); this would reflect, for example, the impact of prior year funding changes, management efficiencies, absorption of fixed costs, and trend impacts.</p> <p>Column E: The out-year impact is the change in performance level expected in 2008 and Beyond of ONLY the requested program budget change; it does not include the impact of receiving these funds again in a subsequent out year.</p>					

National Fish Habitat Initiative (+2,000,000)

The \$2.0 million increase, complemented by base funds of \$995,000, will allow the Service’s Fisheries Program to greatly increase and expedite the Service’s work implementing the National Fish Habitat Initiative. The Service’s Fisheries Program, as the lead federal partner, has begun bringing together States, tribes, partners and other stakeholders to develop a National Fish Habitat Plan (Plan). The Plan will foster geographically-focused, locally driven, and scientifically based partnerships that will work together to protect, restore, and enhance aquatic habitats and reverse the decline of fish and aquatic species. The Plan is patterned after the North American Waterfowl Management Plan and is expected to receive final approval in March 2006.

Specifically, the funds will be used to:

- Support an Executive Secretary for the National Fish Habitat Board and activities of the Board;
- Support coordination and leadership at the Regional level to develop joint ventures (e.g., fish habitat partnerships) and implement partnership projects;
- Support on-the-ground cost-share projects identified by Fish Habitat Partnerships that are recommended by the Service Director and approved by the National Fish Habitat Board;
- Support the national fish habitat database, now in development, in cooperation with the U.S. Geological Survey – National Biological Information Infrastructure.

The mission of the *National Fish Habitat Action Plan* is to protect, restore, and enhance the Nation’s fish and aquatic communities through partnerships that foster fish habitat conservation and improve the quality of life for the American people. This mission will be accomplished through:

- Supporting existing fish habitat partnerships and fostering new efforts;
- Mobilizing and focusing national and local support for achieving fish habitat conservation goals;

- Measuring and communicating the status and needs of aquatic habitats; and
- Providing national leadership and coordination to conserve fish habitats.

Under the draft Plan, Fish Habitat Partnerships are the primary work units, formed around watersheds and other distinct geographic areas, “keystone” fish species, and system types. Through International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (IAFWA), the states will lead the development and implementation of the Plan, in cooperation with the Service and other key partners. A National Fish Habitat Board (Board) will be established with responsibility to promote, oversee, and coordinate implementation of the Plan. The Board will create guidance for recognizing Fish Habitat Partnerships and for allocating national funding and related resources. Core staff from the Service and NOAA Fisheries Service will be co-located to assist the Board in administering all Federal funds and implementing programs designed by the Board.

As the lead Federal agency, the Service has convened the Federal Caucus, a working group of 18 agencies, for the purpose of jointly identifying strategies and resources that the agencies will employ to address the goals of the Initiative. The Caucus will also work toward common performance measures that identify aquatic resource outcomes across the Federal government.

Within the Fish and Wildlife Service, all programs that address aquatic habitat conservation, such as the Fish Passage Program, will consider the priorities identified by Fish Habitat Partnerships, and, where appropriate, focus their activities to address these priorities. FWM field stations in particular will re-orient base-funded activities toward priorities identified through Fish Habitat Partnerships, and provide leadership and technical support for development of projects, as well as monitoring and evaluation of results.



Several Fish Habitat Partnerships have been organized as pilots to test and demonstrate partnership approaches. They include:

- Southeast Aquatic Resources Partnership (12 states)
- Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture (18 states)

- Western Native Trout Initiative (12 states)
- Midwest Driftless Area Partnership (4 states)
- Matanuska-Susitna Salmon Conservation Partnership (Alaska).

The Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture has drafted a conservation strategy supported by a fine-scale status assessment of brook trout populations and habitats in watersheds throughout their 18-state eastern range. Using these tools, the Joint Venture is identifying habitat conservation actions that will produce the highest value outcomes to reverse declines of the species. The Southeast Aquatic Resources Partnership (SARP) is developing GIS-based aquatic habitat plans in four pilot watersheds: Altamaha River, Georgia; Duck River, Tennessee; Pascagoula River, Mississippi; and Roanoke River, North Carolina. SARP is also developing cross-border coordination and implementation of aquatic habitat actions identified in State Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategies.

The Fisheries Program has identified projects in FONS (Fisheries Operational Needs System) for habitat restoration that address priorities of these pilot Fish Habitat Partnerships. Estimated performance based on these projects includes 32 habitat assessments completed, covering an additional 147 miles of instream habitat; 18 additional fish passage barriers removed or bypassed, opening 43 more miles to fish access; restoration of an additional 33 acres of wetlands and 54 additional stream and shoreline miles; and conducting 45 additional associated population assessments. Specific projects and performance will be determined in cooperation with Fish Habitat Partnerships.

The increase will also complement the requested \$1.873 million increase for Hatchery Operations, which is focused on recovery of Apache trout, Gila trout, and greenback cutthroat trout. FWM field stations have identified the need to implement a number of habitat restoration actions in order to fully achieve tasks in Recovery Plans for these species. Examples include:

- Support de-listing of Apache trout by correcting streambank instability and poor riparian condition in Coyote Creek on the Fort Apache Indian Reservation, Arizona, by repairing headcuts in the system to reduce erosion, and rebuilding 2 riparian livestock enclosures;
- Support down-listing of Gila trout by repairing degraded habitat conditions in the upper four miles of the West Fork Gila River, New Mexico. This watershed was severely impacted by wildfire in 2002, resulting in scouring and degradation of trout habitats. Continuing flood and scour events threaten re-establishment efforts and continued existence of the Whiskey Creek population.
- Support restoration of Greenback cutthroat trout in Rock Creek, Colorado. The Rock Creek population of Arkansas strain greenback cutthroat trout is one of twenty self-sustaining populations prescribed in the Greenback Cutthroat Trout Recovery Plan which must be reestablished before delisting. Rock Creek is currently overrun by brook trout and the greenback cutthroat trout stocked in the creek in the early 1990's are not genetically pure. This project will involve the removal of beaver dams to facilitate stream treatment, locating incoming water sources, treating the stream with antimycin on successive occasions to remove all undesirable fish, restocking the stream with pure Arkansas strain greenback cutthroat trout, and monitoring the newly established population. This project will be accomplished in conjunction with the National Fish Hatchery System, and with assistance from the Colorado Division of Wildlife, Trout Unlimited and the U.S. Forest Service.

Total Performance Change		+32 <i>Habitat assessments completed</i> +147 <i>Miles of in-stream and shoreline habitat assessed</i> +18 <i>Fish passage barriers removed or bypassed</i> +43 <i>Miles re-opened to fish passage</i> +33 <i>Wetland acres restored or enhanced to achieve habitat conditions to support species conservation</i> +54 <i>Stream/shoreline miles to achieve habitat conditions to support species conservation</i> +45 <i>Population assessments completed</i>			
	A	B	C	D=B+C	E
Overall Performance Changes from 2006 to 2007					
Measure	2006 Enacted Performance	2007 Base Performance	2007 Impact of Program Change on Performance	2007 Budget Request Performance	Out-year Impact of 2007 Program Change on Performance
# of habitat assessments completed (BUR)	264	264	+32	296	0
# miles of in-stream and shoreline habitat assessed (BUR)	1,235	1,235	+147	1,382	0
# of fish passage barriers removed or bypassed (BUR)	71	71	+18	89	0
Habitat restoration: # of acres/miles re-opened to fish passage (BUR)					
Miles.....	556	556	+43	599	0
Habitat Restoration: Number of acres and stream/shoreline miles restored or enhanced to achieve habitat conditions to support species conservation (SP)					
Wetland acres.....	1,621	1,621	+33	1,654	0
Stream/shoreline miles.....	124	124	+54	178	0
# of population assessments completed (BUR)	916	916	+45	961	0
Column B: The performance level expected to be achieved absent the program change (i.e., at the 2006 request level plus/minus funded fixed cost/related changes); this would reflect, for example, the impact of prior year funding changes, management efficiencies, absorption of fixed costs, and trend impacts.					
Column E: The out-year impact is the change in performance level expected in 2008 and Beyond of ONLY the requested program budget change; it does <u>not</u> include the impact of receiving these funds again in a subsequent out year.					

General Program Activities (-\$1,177,000)

General program funding in Fish and Wildlife Assistance will be reduced by \$1,177,000 from the FY 2006 enacted level to offset funding higher priority initiatives elsewhere in the President’s budget, including fish passage and NFHL. The Service will continue to pursue FWA program goals using existing

funding by working with our State and Tribal partners, and utilizing alternative funding sources such as the State and Tribal Wildlife Grant Programs. Specific reductions in performance will be determined at the Regional level in consultation with states, tribes, and other partners. Expected effects on program performance may include reductions of 61 population assessments completed, 44 technical assistance requests from tribes fulfilled, and 22 tribal consultations. The decrease may also reduce the rate of recovery and restoration of trust fish species and recreational fishing opportunities.

Total Performance Change		<i>-61 Population assessments completed -44 Technical assistance requests fulfilled for Tribal fish and wildlife conservation -22 Tribal consultations</i>			
	A	B	C	D	E
Overall Performance Changes from 2006 to 2007					
Measure	2006 Enacted Performance	2007 Base Performance	2007 Impact of Program Change on Performance	2007 Budget Request Performance	Out-year Impact of 2007 Program Change on Performance
# of population assessments completed (BUR)	916	916	-61	855	0
# of technical assistance requests fulfilled for Tribal fish and wildlife conservation (BUR)	315	315	-44	271	0
# of Tribal consultations (BUR)	55	55	-22	33	0
<p>Column B: The performance level expected to be achieve absent the program change (i.e., at the 2006 request level plus/minus funded fixed cost/related changes); this would reflect, for example, the impact of prior year funding changes, management efficiencies, absorption of fixed costs, and trend impacts.</p> <p>Column E: The out-year impact is the change in performance level expected in 2008 and Beyond of ONLY the requested program budget change; it does <u>not</u> include the impact of receiving these funds again in a subsequent out year.</p>					

Aquatic Nuisance Species (-\$75,000)

The Service will reduce the funding to Asian carp control related projects. The Service will continue to foster the development of a national control and management plan for Asian carp under the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force framework and provide support to activities that further the development of the plan. Once the Asian carp control and management plan is complete and approved by the Task Force, the Service will focus its resources to priority activities identified in the plan.

Total Performance Change		<i>-3 Surveys conducted for early detection of aquatic invasive species -3 Aquatic invasive species populations controlled/managed</i>			
	A	B	C	D=B+C	E
Overall Performance Changes from 2006 to 2007					
Measure	2006 Enacted Performance	2007 Base Performance	2007 Impact of Program Change on Performance	2007 Budget Request Performance	Out-year Impact of 2007 Program Change on Performance
Annually conduct X surveys for early detection of aquatic invasive species (BUR)	38	38	-3	35	0

Annually control/manage X aquatic invasive species populations (FWMA/ANS) (BUR)	11	11	-3	8	0
<p>Column B: The performance level expected to be achieved absent the program change (i.e., at the 2006 request level plus/minus funded fixed cost/related changes); this would reflect, for example, the impact of prior year funding changes, management efficiencies, absorption of fixed costs, and trend impacts.</p> <p>Column E: The out-year impact is the change in performance level expected in 2008 and Beyond of ONLY the requested program budget change; it does <u>not</u> include the impact of receiving these funds again in a subsequent out year.</p>					

Regional Mark Processing Center (-\$246,000)

The Service has provided \$246,000 annually to the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission to maintain the coast-wide coded-wire tag database for anadromous fish produced in U.S. hatcheries, as required by the Pacific Salmon Treaty. The Regional Mark Processing Center serves as the single U.S. database for the Treaty. The database provides the information needed to determine exploitation rates and track fishery-specific impacts to help recover listed salmon stocks; allows for the determination of contribution rates and impact rate limitations across fisheries which are necessary for socio-economic analyses required by the National Environmental Policy Act; and contributes to the Service's legal responsibilities to manage harvest, as outlined in the Federal Columbia River Power System Biological Opinions. This project is not directly related to Service performance goals under the DOI strategic plan. As a result this decrease will not affect the Service's ability to meet strategic goals.

Washington State Mass Marking (-\$1,970,000)

In FY 2006, Congress provided funding to assist the Service in mass-marking all salmon (including, but not limited to coho, Chinook, and steelhead) at all Pacific Region National Fish Hatcheries. Funding was used to comply with section 138 of P.L. 108-7 that requires the Service to implement a system of mass marking of salmonid stocks released from Federally operated or financed hatcheries, except those for restoration, recovery, research, tribal programs and where there is no selective fishery. This effort is to serve as a management tool which would allow for selective fisheries on hatchery stocks and minimize harvest impacts on species listed under the Endangered Species Act. The Service was successful in meeting this directive in FY 2006 by marking over 20 million fish. This funding reduction is consistent with the Fisheries Program's National Strategic Plan, which focuses the Program's limited resources on mission-critical activities that can be undertaken using Service facilities and personnel. This project is not directly related to Service performance goals under the DOI strategic plan. As a result, this decrease will not affect the Service's ability to meet strategic goals.

Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Program (-\$493,000)

In FY 2006, as authorized by the Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act amendments of 1998, Congress authorized funding for state and tribal proposals to aid in the fulfillment of Service responsibilities for implementation of the 32 recommendations in the Great Lakes Fishery Resources Restoration Study. In FY 2006, the Service is providing \$75,000 of base funds to supplement the funds provided by Congress, for a total of \$568,000 to states and tribes to restore native fish and aquatic habitats. Alternative funding sources that could support these activities include State and Tribal Wildlife Grants. This project is not directly related to Service performance goals under the DOI strategic plan. As a result, this decrease will not affect the Service's ability to meet strategic goals.

WA Hatchery Improvement – Scientific Review (-\$246,000)

In FY 2006, this funding continued the Western Washington Hatchery Reform Project (Reform Project). The Reform Project was initiated in FY 2000 as a science-based evaluation of salmon hatcheries in Puget Sound and coastal Washington to achieve two goals: 1) recover and conserve naturally spawning salmon populations; and 2) support sustainable fisheries. Work conducted by the Hatchery Scientific Review

Group (HSRG) assisted the Service in developing 2 new applied aquatic science and technologic tools and implemented 1 applied science task as prescribed by the Fish Management Plans. Funding is no longer required and is to be redirected to other Service priorities that are consistent with the Fisheries Program's National Strategic Plan. This decrease will not affect FWM's ability to meet strategic goals.

WA Hatchery Improvement – Long Live the Kings (-\$246,000)

Long Live the Kings (LLTK) was asked by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) to help make the principles and recommendations made by the Hatchery Scientific Review Group (HSRG) operational and systemic. Using these funds passed through the Fish and Wildlife Service, LLTK worked with a senior-level salmon management team at the WDFW to: 1) ensure hatchery reform is fully implemented, institutionalized and incorporated into regional salmon recovery processes that bring together habitat, harvest and hatchery management; and 2) facilitate the transformation of the WDFW Fish Program into a scientifically-credible and internationally-recognized model for 21st Century salmon management. LLTK also wrote an end of year report to describe HSRGs successes. Funds are being discontinued for this project as this work is not consistent with the Service's Strategic Plan. This decrease will not affect FWM's ability to meet strategic goals.

National Partnership for the Management of Wild and Native Coldwater Fisheries (-\$985,000)

In FY 2006, Congress provided the ninth year of funding for the National Partnership (\$693,000) to subcontract research on prevention and control measures for whirling disease in salmonids and funding to the U.S. Geologic Survey (\$292,000) for additional research on this disease. Activities to date have generated significant information that has been applied in field settings for the management of whirling disease. In FY 2007, these funds will be utilized to address higher priority needs within the Service. As the National Partnership winds down its research on whirling disease, base funds will be directed to Service-conducted disease and fish health activities. This project is not directly related to Service performance goals under the DOI strategic plan and elimination of these funds will have no impact on the NFHS' performance targets.

Montana Whirling Disease Foundation (-\$394,000)

In FY 2006, Congress provided funding to the Montana Whirling Disease Foundation for research targeted at mechanisms of disease resistance in several salmonid strains and their potential for helping control whirling disease. These efforts have expanded the knowledge and raised awareness of the disease and increased support required to study it throughout affected States. The research segment of the Foundation's work is winding down and implementation of the lessons learned should be accomplished by the Services' many partners in those affected areas. This project is not directly related to Service performance goals under the DOI Strategic Plan and elimination of these funds will have no impact on the NFHS' performance targets.

Wildlife Health Center in Montana (-\$493,000)

In FY 2006, Congress provided unrequested funding for the Wildlife Health Center in Montana. The mission of the Wildlife Health Center is to investigate diseases of wildlife that can negatively impact the health of livestock and humans. The Service does not have the necessary expertise or infrastructure to oversee this type of research program and relies on the Biological Resources Division (BRD) of the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) to address its biological research needs. This project is not directly related to Service performance goals under the DOI strategic plan and elimination of these funds will have no impact on the NFHS' performance targets.

Fish Health/Whirling Disease (-\$1,473,000)

To align funding with the appropriate program, funding for this line item is being transferred to Hatchery Operations.

Program Management Savings (-\$90,000)

To enable the Service to address its highest priorities during constrained fiscal times, the Service proposes reducing program administrative funding by \$1,980,000. Using Activity-Based Cost information and other budgetary analyses, the Service anticipates achieving a savings of \$90,000 in Fish and Wildlife Assistance. These savings will be realized by streamlining program administrative support activities.

Program Overview

Fish and Wildlife Assistance (FWA) is the second of three program elements within the Fish and Wildlife Management subactivity. It implements the DOI Resource Protection Goal of sustaining biological communities through all three Intermediate Outcome Goals of creating habitat conditions for *biological communities to flourish, managing populations to self-sustaining levels, and improving information base, information management and technical assistance*. FWA provides leadership and technical expertise to help federal, state, tribal, and private partners restore and manage fish and wildlife resources. The program conducts scientific assessments of fish and wildlife populations and their habitats, develops and implements fish and wildlife management plans, and communicates scientific knowledge and expertise to tribes, other federal agencies, states, foreign governments, and other Service programs. The program also restores aquatic habitats, controls aquatic nuisance species, and restores fish passage to reconnect aquatic species to historical habitats.

The Service's FWA complements the work of other Service programs to achieve the agency's mission. The program works with the National Wildlife Refuge System to conduct population surveys in Refuge waters and help develop Comprehensive Conservation Plans. It works with the Endangered Species program by serving on and/or leading recovery teams, and with the Habitat Conservation program to review hydropower and other development projects for potential impacts to aquatic resources. Through coordinated planning and post-stocking evaluation, the Service's FWA works with the National Fish Hatchery System to implement effective restoration and recovery programs for native fish and mussels. FWA measures the performance of captive propagation programs, works with stakeholders to develop management and restoration plans that define the appropriate use of hatchery fish, and measures progress toward meeting plan objectives.

Fish and Wildlife Assistance Core Areas

The core activities conducted by the Fish and Wildlife Assistance Program address the conservation and management of our Nation's aquatic species and their habitats.

Aquatic Species Conservation and Management

The Service's FWA works with partners to conserve and manage populations of native fish and other aquatic animals, using fishery management and recovery plans to guide conservation actions. FWA helps reverse declines in fish populations by developing and implementing restoration and recovery strategies, assessing the status of remnant stocks, preventing and controlling invasive species, evaluating population responses to stocking and habitat restoration, managing subsistence fishery harvest on Federal lands in Alaska, conducting genetic population assessments, and engaging in outreach activities.

At a regional and national level, FWA represents the Service on several joint ventures focused on restoring and managing native trust species, such as the Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture (EBTJV). This unique partnership between state and federal agencies, conservation organizations, academia, and other partners and stakeholders is a geographically-focused, locally-driven, scientifically-based effort to protect, restore and enhance aquatic habitat throughout the range of the Eastern brook trout (18 states from Maine to Georgia). In 2005, the EBTJV completed an assessment of the status, trends, and key

threats for native brook trout populations rangewide, drafted a conservation strategy, and identified pilot on-the-ground habitat restoration projects for funding and implementation.

Aquatic Nuisance Species

Under the mandates of the Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act of 1990 (as amended, National Invasive Species Act of 1996), the Service's Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS) Program prevents and controls aquatic invasive species. The Service's ANS Program supports implementation of state and interstate ANS management plans and fosters development of new plans where none currently exist. The ANS program provides leadership to the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force and implements Task Force priorities, such as developing and implementing management plans to prevent the introduction and control the spread of specific aquatic invasive species and facilitating non-federal, governmental, and international involvement by supporting activities of the Task Force's regional ANS panels. The ANS program educates the general public through the *Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers!* and *Habitattitude* public awareness campaigns, as well as many other education and outreach efforts.

Alaska Subsistence Fisheries Management

Since 1999, the Service has successfully managed subsistence fisheries in 60 percent of Alaska's waters and will continue this program in FY 2006. The program is administered by the interagency Federal Subsistence Board.

This management and regulatory program integrates federal, state, tribal and local entities on more than 200 million acres of federal lands; implements a \$7 million annual fisheries monitoring plan to provide better information to managers; and develops technical capabilities in rural and tribal organizations to participate in subsistence fisheries management; and supplements the State's management activities for 82 fish populations managed for subsistence fishery harvests. During fishing seasons, state and federal fisheries managers work cooperatively to evaluate fishery run strengths and strive to reach common management decisions.

Aquatic Habitat Conservation and Management

FWA works to manage and conserve habitat important to native trust populations. FWA assesses habitat conditions, identifies critical fish habitat needs, removes or bypasses artificial barriers, installs fish screens, performs instream and riparian habitat enhancement projects, and monitors and evaluates results.

FWA has taken a lead role with the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (IAFWA) in developing the National Fish Habitat Initiative (NFHI). The NFHI is a nationwide strategy that harnesses the energies, expertise, and partnerships of state and federal agencies and partner organizations, to focus national attention and resources on common priorities to improve aquatic habitat health. Partners also include the NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, and many other agencies and conservation interests.

Fish Passage Program

Millions of man-made barriers block fish movement in the United States and contribute to the depletion of migratory fish species, including many that are threatened or endangered. The Service's Fish Passage program removes and bypasses barriers on a voluntary basis in cooperation with willing partners who contribute approximately 60% of project funds.

The program is performance-and-results based, relying on scientific criteria to identify on-the-ground projects that yield the maximum benefits to the resource, and to a wide variety of stakeholders. As a means of identifying and ranking projects, the program utilizes the Fish Passage Decision Support System, a web-based modeling tool that provides science-based data for barrier removal scenarios.

Since its inception in 1999, the program has removed or bypassed 356 fish passage barriers and restored access to 5,250 miles of stream habitat and 72,500 acres. At least 20 federally-listed or candidate species have directly benefited.

Other FWA Activities Include:**Native American Tribal Assistance**

Tribal governments manage or influence some of the nation's most important fish and wildlife resources on more than 55 million acres and 300 plus Indian reservations. The Service's FWA works with tribes to assess fish and wildlife resources, develop management plans, coordinate fish stocking and habitat improvement, and evaluate results of management actions on fish and wildlife resources under tribal jurisdiction. For example, FWA implements the 2000 Consent Decree to manage fish stocks in the Great Lakes with 5 Chippewa/Ottawa Tribes and the State of Michigan, and works with Tribes to evaluate big game herds such as deer, elk, and pronghorn antelope on Montana reservations.

Coordination of Fish and Wildlife management with Department of Defense on Military Installations

The Sikes Act, as amended, requires the DOD, in consultation with the Fish and Wildlife Service and the States to develop, implement, and regularly review and revise (when needed) Integrated Natural Resources Management Plans (INRMPs) for military installations with significant natural resources. Military installations comprise of approximately 30 million acres of land that provide important habitat for native fish, migratory birds, game species, and more than 300 threatened and endangered species. The purpose of INRMPs is to maximize the conservation of fish and wildlife resources on installations while enhancing military training. Each INRMP must be mutually agreed to by the Service, DOD, and the appropriate State. A major challenge facing the Sikes Act parties is to review approximately 320 INRMPs by the statutory deadline of November 2006. The Service will participate in the INRMP process to the maximum extent practicable by seeking to establish transfer funding agreements with DOD at various levels to fund Service activities related to INRMPs.

2007 Program Performance Estimates

Program changes proposed for 2007 will help to shift the focus of Fish and Wildlife Assistance toward aquatic habitat conservation, as called for in the draft National Fisheries Program Strategic Plan. Fish Habitat Partnerships formed under the National Fish Habitat Initiative will set priorities for aquatic resource conservation within defined focus areas, and the Fisheries program will re-orient its activities toward those priorities. Fish passage projects supported by increased funding in 2007 will also address needs identified by Fish Habitat Partnerships.

The net effect of program changes in 2007 will be a reduced number of population assessments conducted (900; down from 916 in FY 2006), and Tribal technical assistance requests and consultations completed (33; down from 55 in FY 2006). However, the amount of habitat restored to an improved condition or re-opened to fish passage will increase significantly. In FY 2007, the program will restore 1,654 acres of wetlands (up from 1,621 in FY 2006), 166 acres of associated upland (the same as in FY 2006), and 178 miles of stream/shoreline (up from 124 in FY 2006). In addition, the program will re-open 14,389 acres of wetlands (up from 1,440 in FY 2006) and 4,643 miles of stream (up from 556 in FY 2006) to fish passage.

The shift of financial resources toward habitat restoration will result in improved populations of fish and other aquatic species due to improvements in habitat conditions. Habitat assessment activities in support of Fish Habitat Partnerships will also increase significantly, including baseline inventories and evaluation of the results of habitat restoration projects.

The proposed program changes will not simply change the level of activity, but will initiate fundamental changes in how the program does business. Fish Habitat Partnerships will institutionalize communication and joint priority-setting with States, local communities, conservation groups, and industry. By focusing on common interests, the Partnerships will enhance relationships between the Service and stakeholders. By leveraging Federal funds with partner contributions, more and larger projects will be done. The Fish and Wildlife Assistance program will continue to utilize its field-based science capabilities, but will focus them on agreed-upon priorities with measurable results.

The National Fish Passage Program will also change qualitatively with the additional funding proposed for 2007. To date, the program has focused primarily on small projects, especially culverts, due to the level of funding available. Increased funding in 2007 will increase options to contribute to larger, more expensive barrier removal projects, where appropriate. Bringing engineering capability to the program will address a critical shortage of fish passage engineers for fishway design throughout the United States.

Projects will benefit listed or depleted fish populations in priority focus areas. For example, removal of invasive species in the lower 80 miles of the Altamaha River, Georgia, and restoration of a three-acre freshwater tidal wetland forest will benefit Atlantic sturgeon and shortnose sturgeon as well as 11 rare mussel species, seven of which are endemic to Georgia. Restoration in the Little Lost River watershed, Idaho, will benefit threatened bull trout by removing a diversion to restore passage to Badger Creek, and revegetating and fencing the stream, as called for in the Bull Trout Recovery Plan. Projects will also restore brook trout habitat in the Appalachian Mountains and in the Driftless Area in the upper Mississippi River basin.

2006 Planned Program Performance

In 2006, the Service's FWA is focusing on restoring and assessing habitat for imperiled species, developing and implementing recovery plans (sturgeon, bull trout, and freshwater mussels), evaluating hatchery fish contribution and interactions with wild populations of depleted native fish species (such as coaster brook trout, lake sturgeon, and lake trout), and continuing to manage salmon and other fish species in Alaska's rivers and lakes under federal subsistence management authority. Priorities include:

Aquatic Species Conservation and Management

- Working with the 28 Mississippi River basin states to assess paddlefish and sturgeon, and provide population level biological data required to manage export certifications of these interjurisdictional species.
- Monitoring Yukon River salmon stock escapements on National Wildlife Refuges and the mainstem Yukon River in cooperation with the State of Alaska and stakeholders living along the Yukon River drainage to maintain the conservation of the Yukon River salmon stocks and implement the Yukon River Salmon Agreement with Canada.
- Continuing to support the Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture as a lead federal participant, in partnership with other federal agencies, 18 states, and non-governmental organizations. Work with partners to develop, fund, and implement pilot on-the-ground projects to address key threats to populations in priority watersheds, and promote stakeholder stewardship through implementation of a multi-audience communications strategy.
- Setting aggressive goals to conduct evaluations of 6 non-native species, focusing attention on species with the greatest potential to adversely affect native species and their habitats. If

warranted, species may be considered for listing under the injurious wildlife provisions of the Lacey Act.

- Increasing the number of activities to address priority pathways from 130 to 144, in part, by continuing to promote and train others in the use of the Hazard and Critical Control Points (HACCP) planning tool to prevent the spread of invasive species through natural resource management activities.

Aquatic Habitat Conservation and Management

- Serving as the lead federal partner with the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies and others to develop the National Fish Habitat Action Plan (Plan). During 2006, FWA will participate on a multi-agency work group to complete the Plan, including scientifically valid measures of habitat health and information systems. This plan will foster geographically-focused, locally-driven, scientifically-based partnerships to protect, restore, and enhance aquatic habitats, and reverse declines in aquatic species. Service contributions will include serving on the work group that completes the Plan, coordinating scientific databases with other agencies to support the Plan, and developing communication strategies to enlist local, regional and national partners. The Plan will be presented for approval by the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies in March 2006.
- Congress provided \$1 million for the National Fish Habitat Initiative (NFHI) in FY 2006, and directed that \$800,000 be provided for on-the-ground projects. The interagency NFHI Core Work Group recommended criteria to guide project selection in 2006, including efforts which have strong partnership connections, have a sound strategic direction, and can measure and document results. Several habitat conservation projects are currently underway will receive funding in 2006: the Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture, Southeast Aquatic Resources Partnership, Western Native Trout Initiative, Midwest Driftless Area Initiative, and Matanuska-Susitna Basin Salmon Conservation Partnership. These activities will contribute to the approximately 264 habitat assessments that are expected to be completed in FY06.
- Working with partners to remove or bypass 71 fish passage barriers, restoring access to 556 miles of stream habitat as well as 1,440 acres of wetlands, and completing 4 barrier inventories.

Public Use

- Enhancing recreational fishing for native fish species on Refuge and military lands by updating Refuge Comprehensive Conservation Plans and fishery management plans, monitoring fish population status and trends, creating additional fishing access, enhancing habitat, and conducting outreach activities.
- Supporting National Fishing and Boating Week events, and other federal, state, tribal, and conservation organization fishing day events through coordination, assistance, and technical expertise.

Cooperation with Native Americans

- Fulfilling legal responsibilities for the US v. Michigan Consent Decree by providing critical biological and management assistance to tribal and state partners, participating on the Technical Fisheries Committee, and conducting studies to evaluate the success of lake trout restoration efforts in Lakes Michigan, Huron, and Superior. These activities will lead to the restoration of

native lake trout and the optimal harvest of tribal and state sport and commercial fisheries.

- Assisting Tribes in developing proposals under the Tribal Wildlife Grant, Tribal Landowner Incentive, and other financial assistance programs.

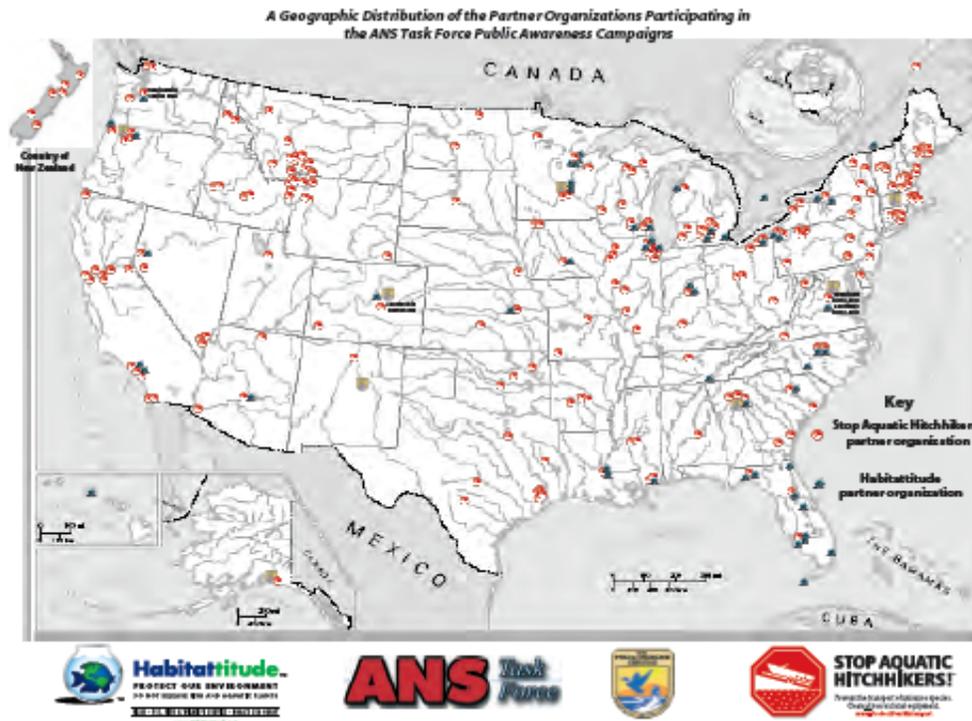
Leadership in Science and Technology

- Updating the internal Fisheries Information System (all modules) to provide greater program-wide utility by moving to a real-time web-based format that will provide all Service Fisheries Program facilities with access to the system at any time via the internet. The FIS upgrade will allow for the system to be utilized by all Service FWA staff (field, Regional and National offices), ultimately improving the Program's overall capabilities to manage federal trust species at multiple scales.

2005 Program Performance Accomplishments

Aquatic Species Conservation and Management

- Completed 26 management plans, including Recovery Plans, restoration and fishery management plans, and habitat plans, in cooperation with partners.
- Conducted 1,585 population assessments of federal trust species, thereby providing scientific information critical to the development and refinement of management plans, and for the improvement of fisheries decision making. Assessments included marking and tagging fish, genetic sampling, and quantitative stock assessments, and provided important status and trend data for depleted and federally listed populations.
- By leveraging external and internal partnership opportunities, surveyed and monitored to detect new invasive species infestations and expansion of existing invasive species in numerous water bodies throughout the United States.
- Promoted and cultivated partnerships through the Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers! and Habitattitude national public awareness campaigns. Provided 571 Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers! boat ramp signs to States, Tribes, and National Wildlife Refuges in the Southwestern United States.



Aquatic Habitat Conservation and Management

- Restored or enhanced 286 miles of stream and riparian habitat by removing non-native species, restoring natural stream flows, planting native vegetation, stabilizing decommissioned roads, and fencing lands to exclude livestock access. These projects increased habitat diversity, while decreasing water temperature, nutrient loading, and fine sediment in spawning areas.
- Opened 1,518 acres and 1,179 miles of historical habitat to fish passage by removing or bypassing 123 barriers through dam removal, culvert and road crossing renovation, renovating or screening irrigation diversions, and constructing fishways.
- Completed 873 habitat assessments that determined critical habitat of listed populations, identified degraded habitats and areas needing enhancement or restoration, and improved management of interjurisdictional fisheries. Assessments covered 38,507 miles of instream and riparian habitat, and 635,128 acres of wetland and 81,710 acres of upland habitat.

Public Use

- Administered the Adopt-A-Salmon Program, a watershed stewardship initiative involving 33 schools and 1,500 students, to increase public awareness of migratory fish restoration.
- Fulfilled federal trust responsibility by assisting San Carlos Apache Tribe with 9 fishery surveys, 2 habitat restoration projects, developing a fishery management plan, and wildlife management.

Cooperation with Native Americans

- Provided technical assistance to Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewas and the Spirit Lake Nation in North Dakota for 2005 to enhance recreational opportunities and management capability and implement management plans for natural resources.

- At the request of the Yakama Indian Nation, the Service coded-wire tagged 245,241 coho at Winthrop NFH, 590,164 coho at Willard NFH and 685,000 coho at Cascade state hatchery for release into the Methow and Wenatchee sub-basins in spring of 2006 as part of the tribal coho restoration effort in mid-Columbia River tributaries.

Leadership in Science and Technology

- Developed a web-based geographic information system (GIS) database to inventory all information on current and historic status and distribution of lake sturgeon throughout the Great Lakes.
- Assisted with coordination and planning of binational, regional, state, and local GIS activities, developed spatial data and procedures for Great Lakes data, and provided technical assistance for utilizing Geographic Information Systems.
- Service FWA staff provided biometric support to a variety of fisheries projects and recovery efforts by performing quantitative analyses and providing statistical advice for a wide range of problems, including monitoring the status of listed bull trout population segments and developing sampling designs for lamprey assessments. FWA also provided statistical advice for studies that estimate survival rates and fish abundance, and for studies relating habitat attributes to abundance of aquatic animals. All of this work was done in cooperation with State and Tribal partners.

Program Element		FY 2005 Actual	FY 2006 Enacted	FY 2007			Change From 2006 (+/-)
				Fixed Costs & Related Changes (+/-)	Program Changes (+/-)	Budget Request	
Marine Mammals	\$(000)	4,522	4,370	+41	-1,967	2,443	-1,927
	FTE	21	21		0	21	0

Summary of FY 2007 Program Changes for Marine Mammals

Request Component	Amount	FTE
Program Changes		
• Alaska Marine Mammals	-1,958	0
• Program Management Savings	-9	0
TOTAL, Program Changes	+1,967	0

Justification of FY 2007 Program Changes

The FY 2007 budget request for Marine Mammals is \$2,443,000 and 21 FTE, a net program decrease of \$1,967,000 from the FY 2006 enacted level.

Alaska Marine Mammals (-\$1,958,000)

Projects and grant-funded tasks under this activity are anticipated to be successfully completed in FY 2006; therefore funding for this activity is eliminated to offset funding increases elsewhere in the President's budget request that are necessary to address higher priority needs. At the FY 2007 requested level, the Service will continue to engage in activities that support DOI's Resource Protection End Outcome Goal of *sustaining biological communities on DOI managed and influenced lands and waters in a manner consistent with obligations regarding the allocation and use of water*, under the Intermediate Outcome Goals of *managing populations to self-sustaining levels for specific species* and *improving information base, information management, and technical assistance*. The Service's Marine Mammal Program will continue to collaborate with partners to accomplish goals and seek to develop additional beneficial partnerships.

In FY 2006, the Service will target the funding provided by Congress for Alaska Marine Mammals activities to the following two areas: (1) \$969,000 for cooperative agreements with Alaska Native organizations; and (2) \$990,000 for marine mammal surveys in Alaska. The Service will maintain these cooperative agreements in FY 2007 through base funds, although the elimination of the additional funds will reduce the scope of, and the number of joint efforts pursued under, these agreements. Many of these joint efforts are predicated upon a long-term approach necessary to understanding population trends. The scaled-back agreements will still play an important role in maintaining partnerships with Alaska Natives, which provide key management tools for understanding population trends and managing subsistence harvest.

In FY 2006, the Service will target \$990,000 of the appropriated funding towards the continued development of marine mammal population survey methods in Alaska. The Service may be unable to achieve a long-term walrus census and assessment of population trends. Additionally, the effectiveness of the Service's polar bear and sea otter population assessments may be negatively impacted. Although anticipated program performance goals will not be affected in the near term, in the long term, the

elimination of these funds may impact the Service's ability to increase its performance levels related to the Department's Strategic Plan goal of understanding current population trends of species managed by DOI.

Program Management Savings (-\$9,000)

To enable the Service to address its highest priorities during constrained fiscal times, the Service proposes reducing program administrative funding by \$1,980,000. Using Activity Based Cost information and other budgetary analyses, the Service anticipates achieving a savings of \$9,000 in Marine Mammals. These savings will be realized by streamlining program administrative support activities.

Program Overview

The Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) assigns the Department of the Interior responsibility for the management of polar bears, walrus, sea and marine otters, three species of manatees, and dugongs. This responsibility has been delegated to the Service. Under the MMPA, marine mammal populations, and the health and stability of marine ecosystems upon which they depend, are required to be maintained at, or returned to, healthy levels. The Service's Marine Mammal Program acts to conserve and manage the three stocks of northern sea otter in Alaska, the northern sea otter population in Washington State, polar bear and Pacific walrus in Alaska, as well as support recovery of the listed (under the Endangered Species Act) southern sea otter in California, the southwest Alaska distinct population segment of the northern sea otter, and the West Indian manatee in Florida and Puerto Rico.

The Service recognizes that meeting our mandate for the conservation of marine mammal species requires communication, consultation, and cooperation with other Federal agencies (including NOAA-Fisheries, the Marine Mammal Commission, and USGS/BRD), State Governments, Alaska Native Organizations, scientists from numerous institutions and organizations, industry groups, non-governmental organizations, and others. Through active collaboration and coordination, we are able to enhance the effectiveness of our efforts to implement the MMPA.

To carry out its responsibilities, the Service:

- prepares, reviews, and revises species management plans and stock assessments;
- assesses population status and trends;
- develops and implements management plans and habitat conservation strategies;
- promulgates and implements incidental take regulations;
- conducts harvest monitoring projects for Alaska species;
- implements the Marking, Tagging, and Reporting Program for polar bears, walrus, and northern sea otters harvested by Alaska Natives;
- implements the 1973 International Agreement on the Conservation of Polar Bears between the U.S., Canada, Russia, Norway, and Denmark (for Greenland); and,
- develops and supports U.S. bi-lateral and multi-lateral efforts and agreements for the conservation and management of marine mammal species.

The Service works with Alaska Native Organizations (ANOs) to assess subsistence harvest and gather biological information from harvested animals. This collaborative effort provides the Service with important information on the health and status of populations of marine mammals subject to Alaska Native subsistence harvest. Furthermore, the Service works with ANOs to develop and implement voluntary marine mammal harvest guidelines. Both the Service and ANOs recognize the importance of marine mammal harvests to Alaska Native subsistence, cultural and economic interests. Because the MMPA does not provide a mechanism for regulating subsistence harvest of marine mammals, unless a stock becomes depleted, the Service and ANOs strive to ensure harvests are conducted in a biologically

sound manner. The Service is working with its ANO partners, and others, to enact enforceable harvest management mechanisms through the reauthorization of the MMPA.

The Marine Mammal Program's activities support the Department of the Interior's Strategic Plan Resource Protection End Outcome Goal of *sustaining biological communities on DOI managed and influenced lands and waters in a manner consistent with obligations regarding the allocation and use of water*, through the Intermediate Outcome Goals of *managing populations to self-sustaining levels for specific species* and *improving information base, information management, and technical assistance*.

2007 Program Performance Estimates

In FY 2007, at the requested funding level of \$ 2.443 million, the Marine Mammal Program will continue to engage in activities that support DOI's Resource Protection End Outcome Goal of *sustaining biological communities on DOI managed and influenced lands and waters in a manner consistent with obligations regarding the allocation and use of water*, under the Intermediate Outcome Goals of *managing populations to self-sustaining levels for specific species* and *improving information base, information management, and technical assistance*.

As in past years, in FY 2007, the Service plans to: maintain cooperative agreements with ANO and international partners; monitor status and trends of marine mammal populations; and implement incidental take regulations related to oil and gas industry activities and two stocks of marine mammals on the north slope of Alaska. In FY 2007, the Service also plans to: (1) increase the number of updated marine mammal stock assessment reports; (2) promulgate incidental take regulations for an additional marine mammal stock; and (3) improve knowledge of population trends for an additional marine mammal stock. In addition, if implementing legislation for the U.S.-Russia bilateral polar bear treaty is passed, the Service will engage in new collaborative activities with Russian partners related to conservation and management of the Bering/Chukchi Seas polar bear population.

- **Stock Assessment Reports:** In FY 2007, the Service plans to revise stock assessment reports for the Beaufort Sea polar bear and the Pacific walrus. We expect to receive new information on both of these stocks in FY 2006 and FY 2007 following the completion of ongoing population assessments and will begin the review process of the existing stock assessment reports at that time. The Alaska Scientific Review Group, which is established under Section 117 of the MMPA, was advised of, and concurs with, these plans.
- **Managing Marine Mammal Incidental Take:** The Service anticipates the oil and gas industry will submit a request in FY 2006 to promulgate incidental take regulations for activities proposed in the Chukchi Sea that could incidentally take Pacific walrus and polar bears in that area. If this occurs, the Service expects to complete the rulemaking process for this request in FY 2007 and, therefore, increase the number of marine mammal stocks with incidental take regulations requiring mitigating measures from 2 to 3 (i.e., the Pacific walrus stock found in the Beaufort and Chukchi Seas, the polar stock found in the Beaufort Sea, and the polar bear stock found in the Chukchi Sea).
- **Status and Trends of Marine Mammal Populations:** Upon completion of the range-wide Pacific walrus survey planned for FY 2006, the Service will begin analysis of the data in FY 2007 in our effort to increase our understanding of the population trends for this species. The Service's continued efforts on this project also help to foster relationships and coordination with our Russian colleagues.

Although the Service we will continue collaborative efforts with its partners in FY 2007, and will seek to develop additional beneficial partnerships, some of its activities will occur at levels that are scaled back due to reduced funding. Anticipated program performance goals will not be affected in the near term. However, the Service will be unable to increase performance levels on DOI Strategic Plan goals related to marine mammals (e.g., knowledge of population trends) in the long term, because doing so requires continuation of the long term studies of populations that were funded in the past.

2006 Planned Program Performance

In FY 2006, the Marine Mammal Program will continue to engage in activities that support DOI's Resource Protection End Outcome Goal of *sustaining biological communities*. The Service will continue to collaborate with our partners to accomplish our goals, and will seek to develop additional beneficial partnerships. Significant FY 2006 accomplishments in the program will include:

- **MMPA Section 119 Cooperative Agreements:** Maintaining cooperative agreements with the Alaska Nanuq Commission, the Steller Sea Lion and Sea Otter Commission, and the Eskimo Walrus Commission, for monitoring and management of polar bears, northern sea otters, and Pacific walrus respectively. The scope of these agreements, which were expanded in FY 2002, will continue to include activities pertaining to harvest monitoring, traditional knowledge surveys, and biological monitoring and sampling.
- **International Agreements:** Continuing our partnerships with Russian marine mammal managers to coordinate walrus survey efforts and with Alaska Natives and Canada Inuvialuit peoples to support sustainable management and harvest of the shared (with Canada) southern Beaufort Sea population of polar bear. The Service will continue to work with Alaska Native partners to support the Administration's request for legislation to implement the *Agreement between the United States of America and the Russian Federation on the Conservation and Management of the Alaska-Chukotka Polar Bear Population*. The agreement unifies management programs between the U.S. and Russia and calls for the active involvement of Native people and their organizations in Russia and Alaska in managing the shared polar bear population, including the establishment of harvest levels.
- **Status and Trends of Marine Mammal Populations:** The Service will implement a range-wide walrus survey, using techniques developed with FY 2005 funds. This will include working cooperatively with Russian colleagues to carry out and coordinate survey efforts.
- **Stock Assessment Reports:** Beginning the process of updating stock assessment reports under section 117 of the MMPA for Bering Sea polar bear, and northern sea otter stocks in Alaska (4 total stocks). These reports describe the extent and impact of commercial fishing operations, serious injuries, and human-related mortalities.
- **Manage Marine Mammal Incidental Take:** Promulgating regulations to authorize the incidental taking of polar bears and walrus in the Beaufort Sea during the course of oil and gas industry activities in the area of the North Slope of Alaska for a period of five years, in response to a request from Industry made in FY 2005. In addition, we anticipate responding to a request from Industry for separate incidental take regulations related to Industry activities in the Chukchi Sea.
- **Southwest Alaska DPS of Northern Sea Otters:** Continuing efforts to support outreach and public notification related to the recent listing of the southwest Alaska DPS of northern sea otter. This includes coordinating with the Service's Endangered Species program and external stakeholders to develop a recovery plan under the ESA.

- **Washington Office Technical and Coordination Assistance:** Continuing to support and coordinate the Service's marine mammal efforts. In addition to the efforts described above, this will include finalizing the supplemental environmental impact statement on the southern sea otter translocation program, and supporting the Service's health and stranding response efforts (including ascertaining the cause of, and responding to, the ongoing manatee UME, and coordinating with NOAA-Fisheries on developing guidelines for the release of captive marine mammals). The program will continue to represent the Service on the Working Group for Marine Mammal Unusual Mortality Events and the federal caucus of the former Federal Advisory Committee on Acoustic Impacts on Marine Mammals.

2005 Program Performance Accomplishments

The Marine Mammal Program, working in collaboration with other Federal agencies, State partners, Alaska Native partners, and others, accomplished the following tasks in FY 2005:

- **MMPA Section 119 Cooperative Agreements:** Cooperative agreements were maintained with the three ANOs that collectively represent statewide interests of Alaska Native hunters who harvest northern sea otter, polar bear, and Pacific walrus. The scope of these agreements, which were expanded in FY 2002, again included activities pertaining to harvest monitoring, traditional knowledge surveys, and biological monitoring.
- **International Agreements:** The Service entered into a cooperative agreement with the Marine Mammal Council of Russia to develop Russian capacity for airborne thermal remote sensing based surveys of Pacific walrus, which will provide essential support to our joint (with Russia) planned Pacific walrus population survey in FY 2006. The Service also continued to provide technical support to Alaska Natives and Canada Inuvialuit peoples for voluntary, sustainable harvest management of the shared (with Canada) southern Beaufort Sea population of polar bear.
- **Status and Trends of Marine Mammal Populations:** The Service continued development of techniques to conduct a range-wide walrus survey. This included cooperative research with our Russian colleagues to carry out and coordinate survey efforts, and with USGS/BRD to develop functional satellite transmitters to determine walrus haulout cycles on ice.
- **Manage Marine Mammal Incidental Take:** The Service implemented regulations under Section 101(a)(5)(A) of the MMPA to allow the incidental taking of Pacific walrus and polar bear, primarily by passive harassment, during the course of oil and gas industry activities in the area of the North Slope of Alaska. These regulations required terms and conditions that minimized the total takings and established processes for monitoring industry impacts to the species through the issuance of Letters of Authorization. Industry has been requesting and receiving such regulations since 1993. The most recent regulations expired on March 31, 2005, and the Service provided technical support and assistance to Industry for the development of a request for new regulations, which was submitted in FY 2005.
- **Alaska Native Harvest Marking, Tagging, and Reporting Program:** The Service continued implementation of this program that quantifies Alaska Native harvest of marine mammals, and provides important biological information on polar bears, northern sea otters, and Pacific walrus.
- **Southwest Alaska DPS of Northern Sea Otters:** The Service listed the southwest Alaska distinct population segment of northern sea otter as threatened under the ESA and, therefore, depleted under the MMPA. At the same time, we proposed a special rule under Section 4(d) of the ESA that would align provisions relating to the creation, shipment, and sale of authentic Native handicrafts and

clothing by Alaska Natives under the ESA with what is already allowed under the MMPA. The proposed rule would provide for the conservation of sea otters, while at the same time accommodating Alaska Natives' subsistence, cultural, and economic interests.

- **Washington Office Technical and Coordination Assistance:** Provided support for the Service's marine mammal efforts, including promulgation of rulemakings to amend the definition of "authentic native articles of handicrafts and clothing" under the MMPA, and to list the southwest Alaska DPS of northern sea otter as threatened under the ESA. The program supported field and Regional staff in California to finalize a draft supplemental environmental impact statement regarding the southern sea otter translocation program. The program provided support for the Service's ongoing efforts to develop draft guidelines for the release of captive marine mammals, and to respond to an unusual mortality event of manatees in southwest Florida. The program continued to represent the Service on the Working Group for Marine Mammal Unusual Mortality Events and the Federal Advisory Committee on Acoustic Impacts on Marine Mammals.

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