

Alaska Fisheries Science Center FY23 State of the Center

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Presentation for North Pacific Fishery Management Council
June 8, 2023



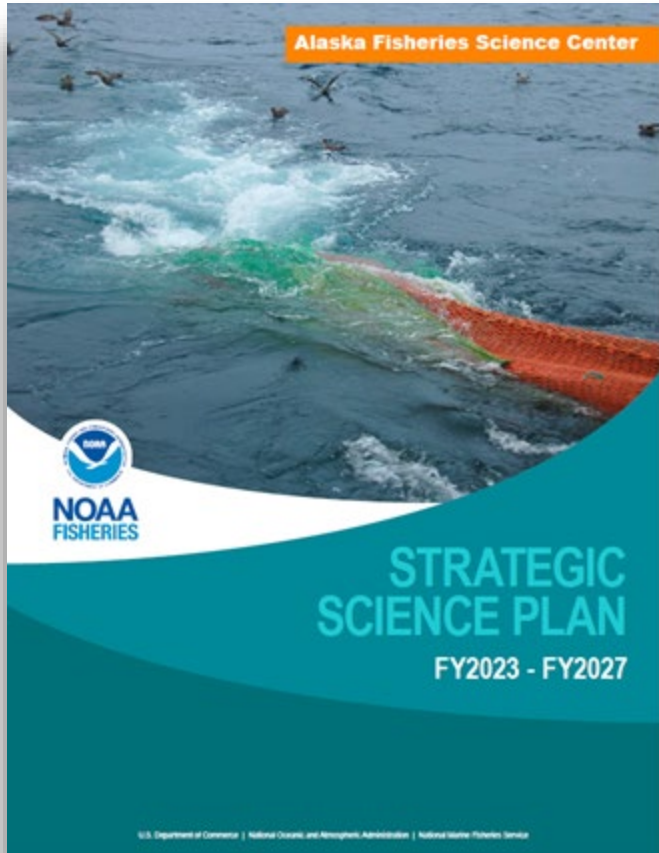
Roadmap

- Resource allocation process
- Budget trends
- FY23 science activities
- Other updates



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AFSC Strategic Science Plan (SSP)

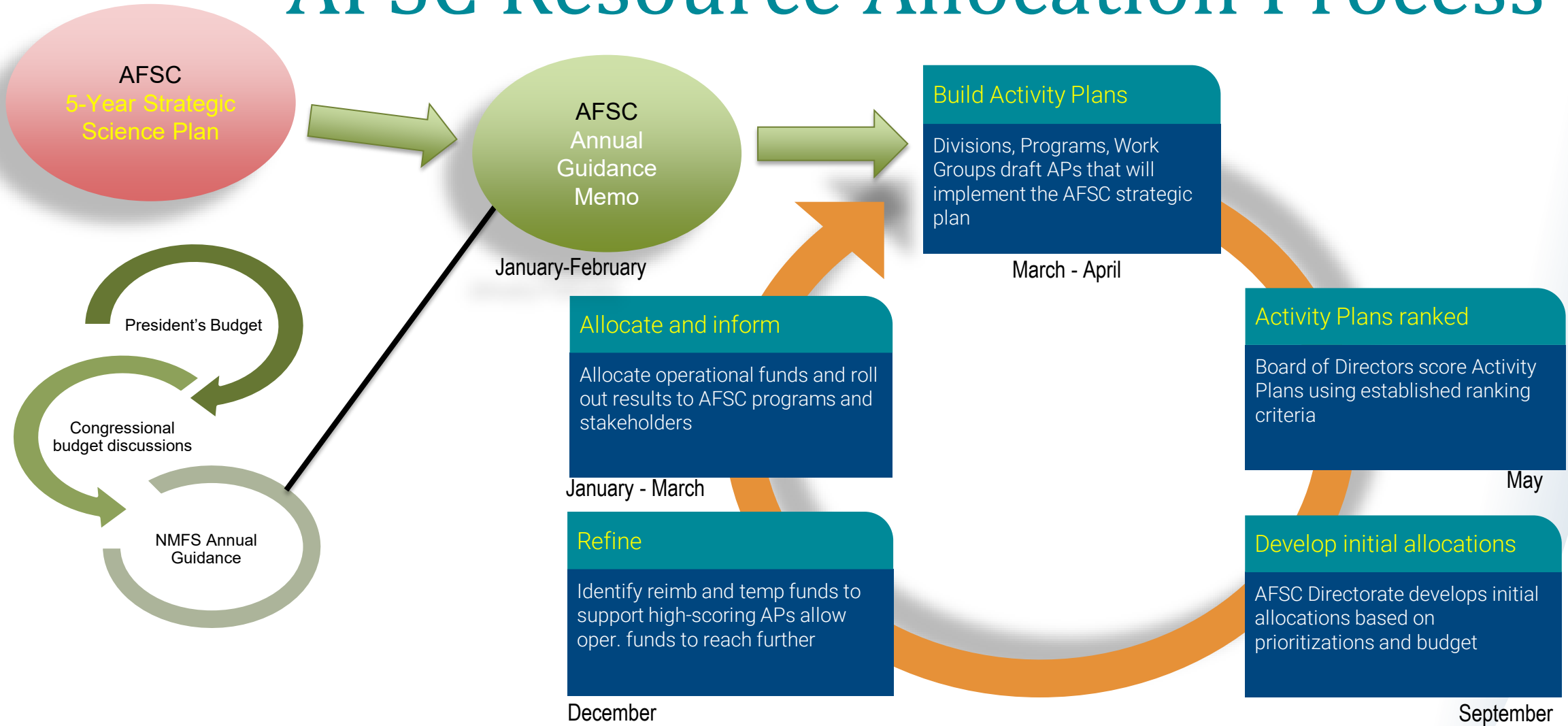


- Identifies our priorities for across five years (FY2023-FY2027)
- Designed to support and advance the mission of NOAA and NMFS
- Aligned with NMFS Strategic Plan
- Informs the Annual Guidance Memo
- <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/resource/document/alaska-fisheries-science-center-strategic-plan-fy2023-fy2027>



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AFSC Resource Allocation Process



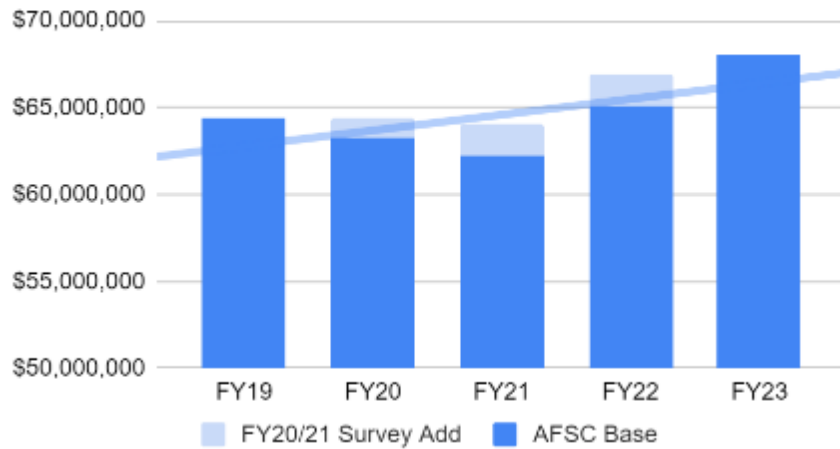
Budget Trends



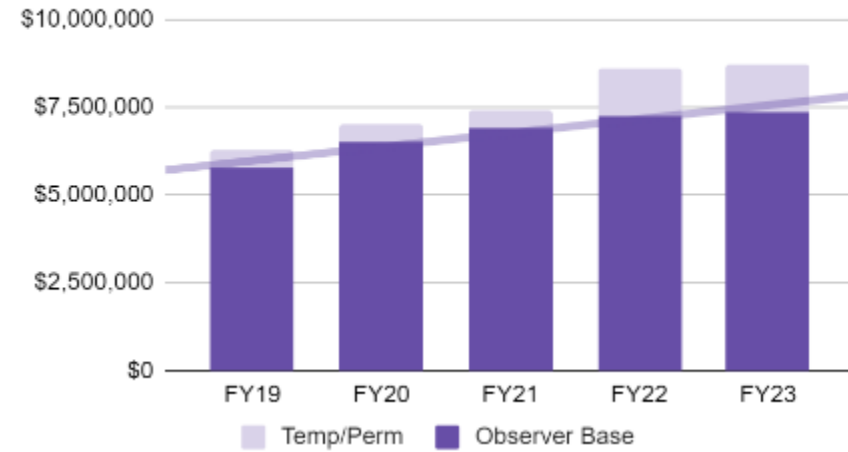
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AFSC Budget Trends

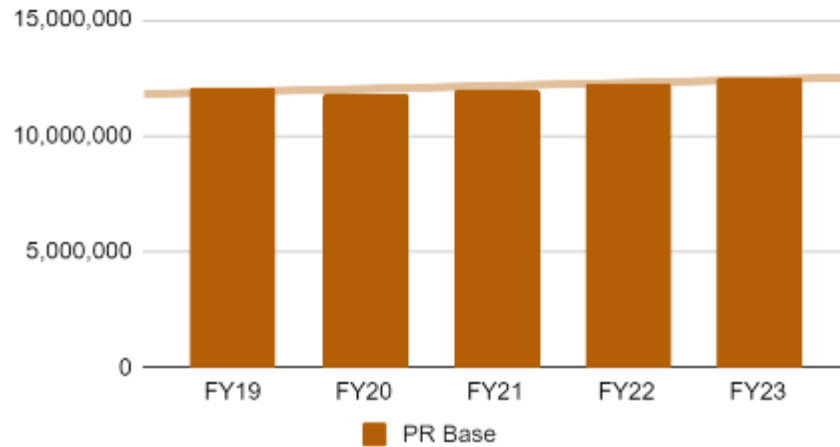
AFSC Total Permanent Funding



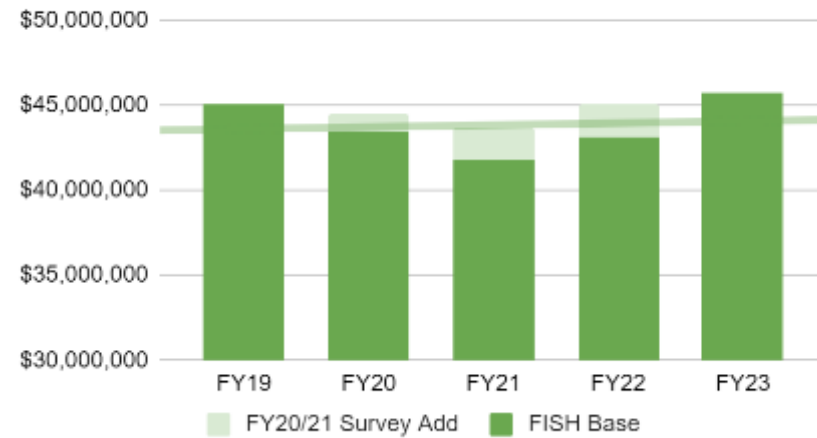
Observers & Training



Protected Resources



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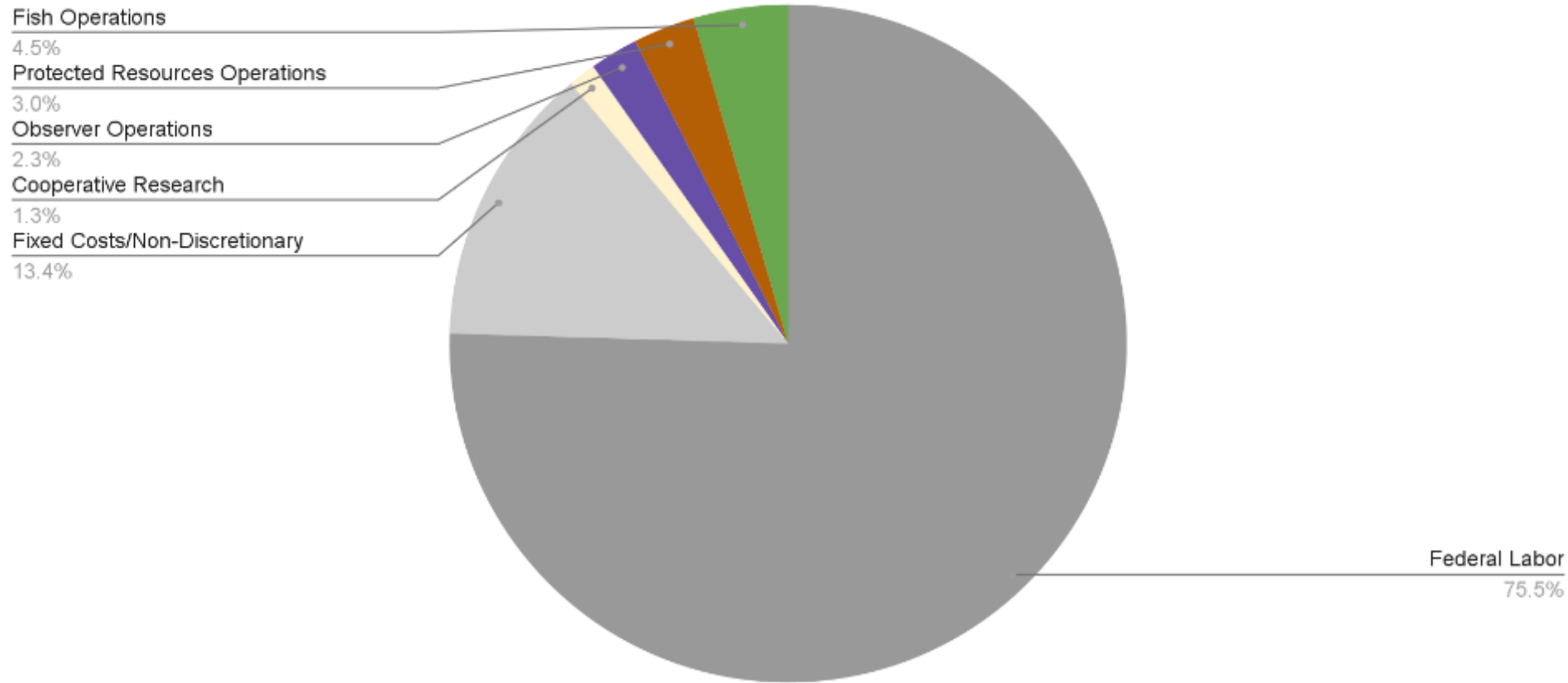


*Temporary and reimbursable funds are not included.



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AFSC Preliminary FY23 Base Funding Profile

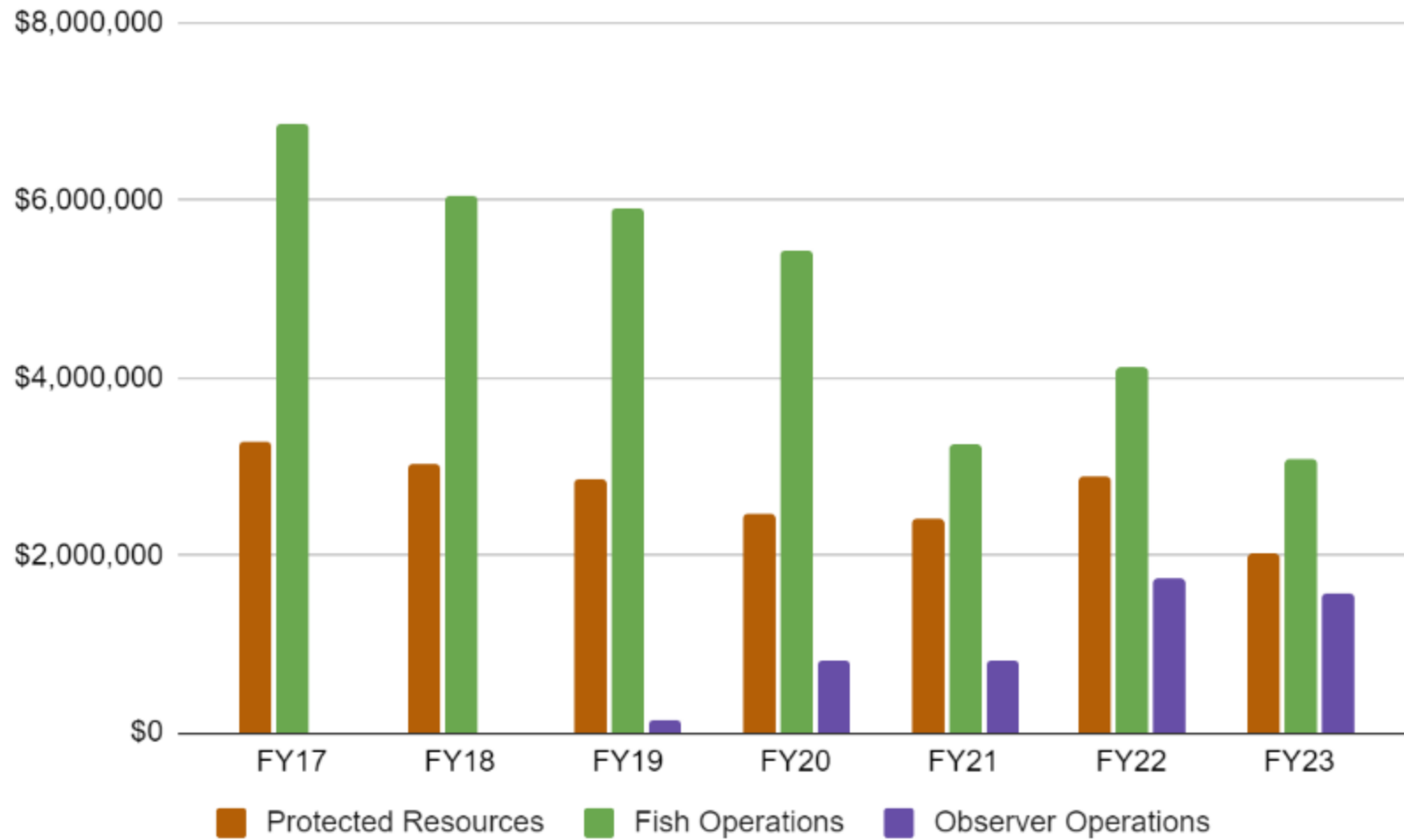


- Fixed Costs/Non-Discretionary includes facilities, mandatory travel, and other costs that are required to be paid annually.
- Temporary and reimbursable funds are not included.



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Operational Funding Trends



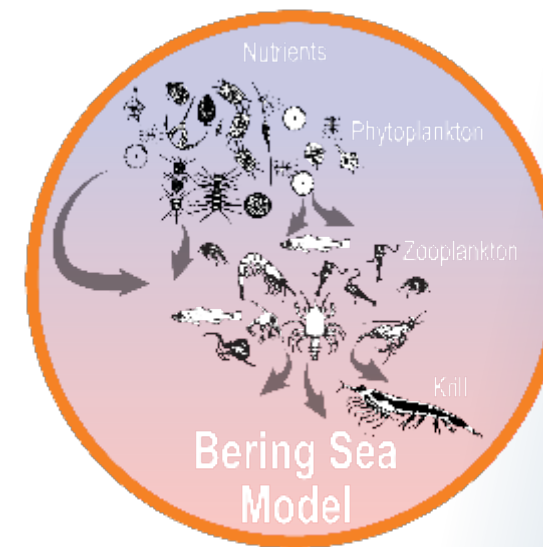
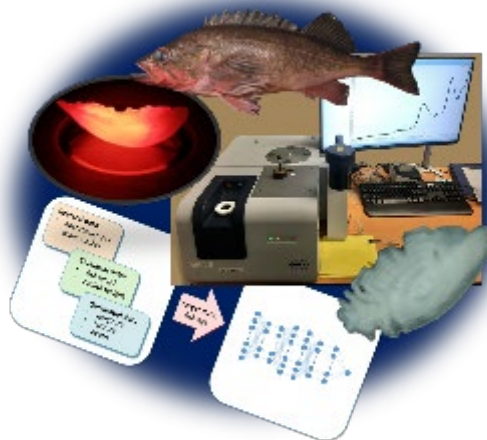
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FY23 funding potential



F/V Alaska Provider (US Seafoods)

- Arctic
- Essential Data Acquisition (surveys)
- Climate & Ecosystem Fisheries Initiative
- Advance Technology
- Data Modernization



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FY24 President's Budget

- FY24, the NOAA requests \$6.8 billion in discretionary appropriations, **an increase of \$450.5 million** from the FY23 enacted budget.
 - +\$80.2M toward building a climate-ready nation
 - +\$81.4M to inform economic development (wind, seafood)
 - +\$9.1M to improve equity and workforce (coastal communities)
 - +\$363.2 million for satellites
 - +\$55.7 million for facilities
- The FY24 Budget builds on investments in the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) and Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) for Climate-Ready Coasts, climate data and services, and fisheries and protected resources.
- [More information](#)



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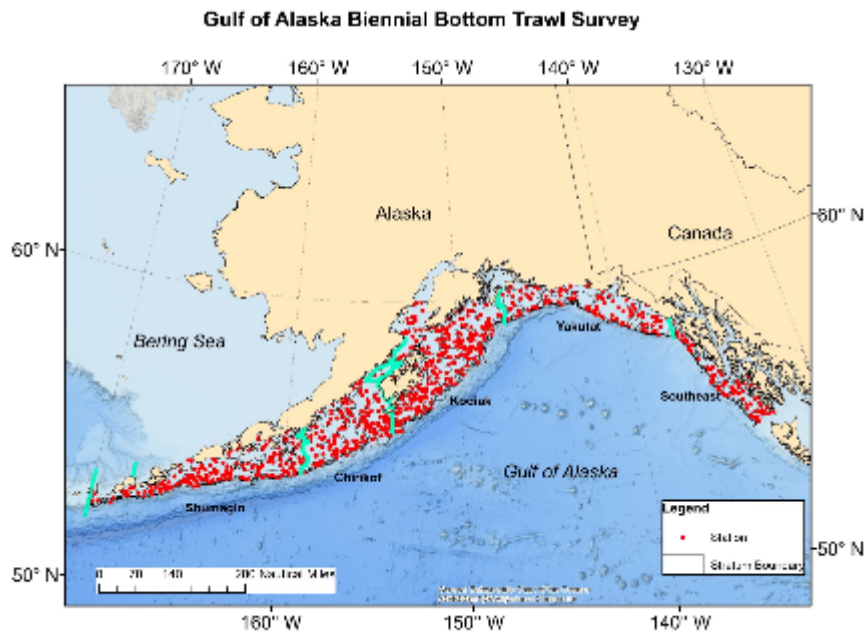
Science Activities



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FY23 Bottom Trawl Surveys Fully Funded

- Gulf of Alaska (2 vessels)
- Eastern Bering Sea (2 vessels)
- Northern Bering Sea (2 vessels)



FY23 High Priority Underfunded PR & OBS work

- Not fully funded yet but anticipate they will be
 - Protected Resources
 - North Pacific Right Whale Survey
 - Steller Sea Lions Vital Rates
 - ArMAPPS– large cetacean survey
 - Observers
 - Electronic Monitoring
 - AI and Machine Learning for EM
- Upcoming concerns
 - FY24 ice seal survey
 - FY25 bowhead survey



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FY23 High Priority Underfunded FISH work

- Not fully funded yet but may be
 - Next generation ecosystem-based assessments and management strategy evaluations
 - Food habits collections and analysis
 - Genomics
 - Recruitment processes
 - Identifying and Surveying Untrawlable Habitat
 - *Strategies and impacts for reducing costs and increase efficiency of AFSC fishery-independent surveys.*



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Other Updates



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Essential Fish Habitat

- FY23: nine EFH research proposals received
- Four proposals funded
 - Defining essential habitats for juvenile FMP crab species (*Chionoecetes* spp.): the importance of bottom temperature and diatom flux in defining juvenile crab abundance and condition across a warming Bering Sea
 - Predictive distribution models to support flexible management of Bering Sea crab fisheries: a combined modeling, field, and laboratory approach
 - Northern Bering Sea Effects of Trawling Study (NETS)
 - Condition indicators for Pcod and walleye pollock from EBS



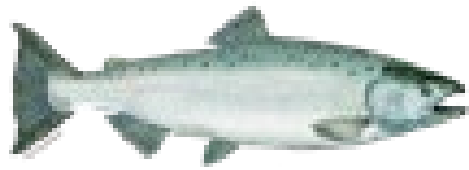
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Emergency Crab Study

- In response to closure of the fishery in 2021 and 2022
- Crabbers providing vessels and expertise in cooperative research effort with AFSC and ADFG to answer key management questions about Bristol Bay Red King Crab
- Study winter distribution and movement
 - Crab pot surveys
 - Satellite tagging
 - Gear modification tests



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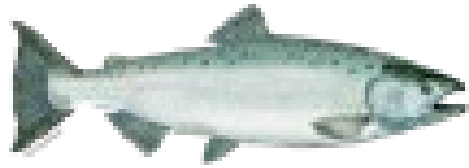
Salmon Task Force (STF)



- Alaska Salmon Task Force Act passed by Congress and signed into law by the President of the United States on December 29, 2023.
- NOAA required to convene an Alaska Salmon Research Task Force within 90 days of the Act's passage, or by March 29, 2023.
- Solicitation for nominations circulated Feb 2023
- Currently in process of selecting membership in coordination with State of Alaska



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STF Membership



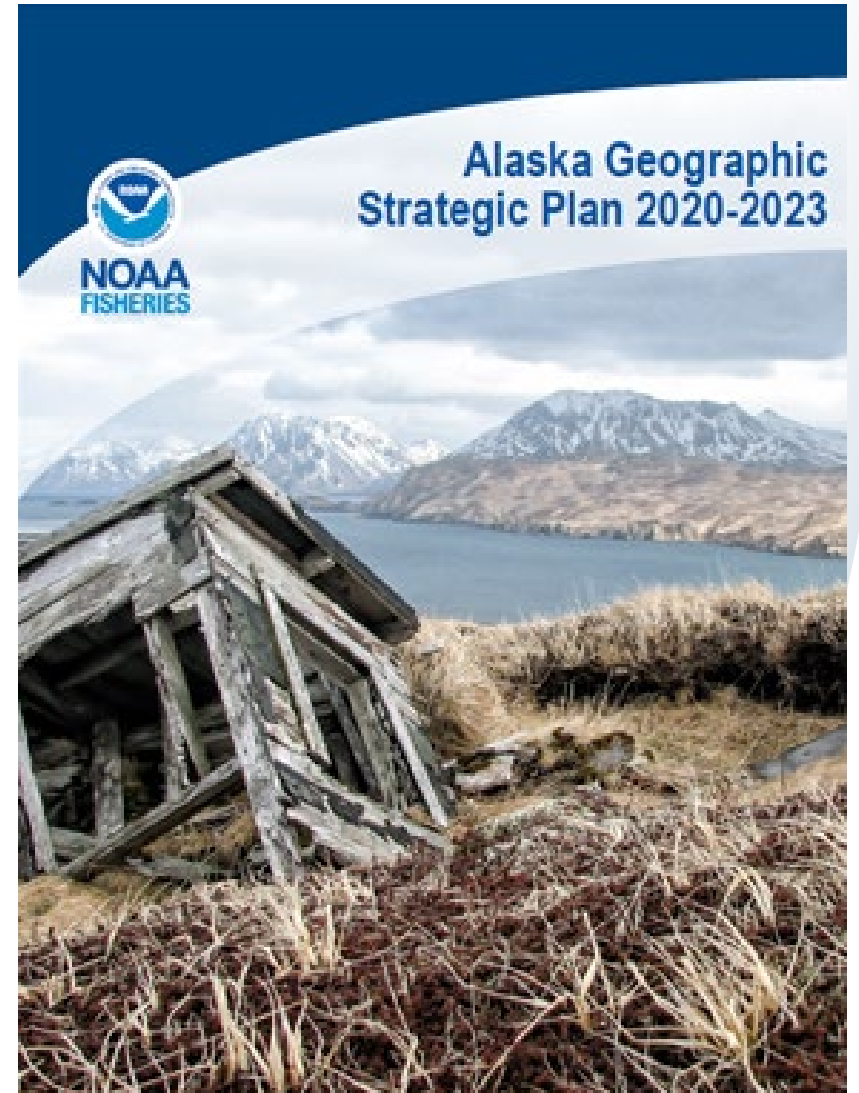
- The Secretary of Commerce will appoint a representative from each of the following:
 - The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
 - The North Pacific Fishery Management Council
 - The United States section of the Pacific Salmon Commission
 - Between 2-5 representatives from each of the following categories, at least 2 of whom shall represent Alaska Natives who possess personal knowledge of, and direct experience with, subsistence uses in rural Alaska, to be appointed with due regard to differences in regional perspectives and experience:
 - Residents of Alaska who possess personal knowledge of, and direct experience with, subsistence uses in rural Alaska.
 - Alaska fishing industry representatives throughout the salmon supply chain, including from directed commercial fishing, recreational fishing, charter fishing, seafood processors, salmon prohibited species catch (bycatch) users, or hatcheries.
 - 5 representatives who are academic experts in salmon biology, salmon ecology (marine and freshwater), salmon habitat restoration and conservation, or comprehensive marine research planning in the North Pacific.



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Geographic Strategic Plan

- Joint plan for Alaska:
 - AFSC, AKRO, NPFMC
- Revised version underway
- Initiation of strategy for Environmental Equity and Justice



Environmental Equity and Justice (EEJ)

- Coordinate with the Alaska Regional Office on engagement and consultation effort / Equity and Environmental Justice effort
 - EEJ Strategy
 - EEJ Implementation Plan
- Engage with Alaska Native Tribes and Alaska Native Corporations
 - Foster stronger collaborative research partnerships through our Tribal Research Coordinator and AFSC scientists
 - Communications Protocol
- Provide science to support co-management agreements



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Thank You!

