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PRESS RELEASE

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ADF&G Addresses Impacts from Potential Shutdown

(Juneau, AK) – The Alaska Department of Fish and Game is analyzing the impacts from a potential shutdown of government services effective July 2, 2015. Accounting for the largest percentage of general funds in the department, the Division of Commercial Fisheries would be the hardest hit.

Most commercial salmon fisheries occur during June through September and contribute hundreds of millions of dollars to the economy. The division will maintain a core staff involved in active management of these fisheries. Field staff deployed to remote areas of the state operating weirs and conducting other enumeration projects will be returned to their primary duty station and laid off using a phased approach during the months of July and August. Similarly, the division's five research vessels will be returned to port and tied up. Other services including regional support, front counter support to the public, laboratory services, data support and other related services will be curtailed or halted.

In addition to these impacts, the following services provided by ADF&G will also be significantly curtailed or halted effective July 2:

- Title 16 permits issued by the Division of Habitat.
- Subsistence harvest surveys conducted by the Division of Subsistence.
- Support to the Board of Fisheries and Board of Game as well as advisory committees.

The following departmental services will remain operational without the use of general funds:

- Functions of the Division of Sport Fish.
- Functions of the Division of Wildlife Conservation.
- Functions of the Commercial Fisheries Limited Entry Commission.

Governor Walker is hopeful the Legislature will reach a compromise so this shutdown can be averted. But out of an abundance of caution, the Governor and ADF&G want Alaskans to know that the services provided by the department will be affected.

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