

# Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

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## Department Description

To manage, conserve, and promote wise utilization of Louisiana's renewable fish and wildlife resources and their supporting habitats through replenishment, protection, enhancement, research, development, and education for the social and economic benefit of current and future generations; to provide opportunities for and to encourage the use and enjoyment of these resources in a safe and healthy environment both on land and on water.

The goals of the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries are:

- I. To provide the most effective and efficient support services, enforce compliance with policies and regulations in all department programs, and promote good customer service and to increase the public visibility of the department.
- II. To operate all programs efficiently and effectively through sound planning and decision-making processes resulting in sustainability of the state's natural resources.
- III. To support natural resource preservation by providing frontline enforcement of laws, regulations, and programs related to wildlife and fisheries, conservation, and management. Hours worked and public contacts associated with wildlife, fisheries and ecosystem enforcement, education and community policing programs are the most relevant measures of the activities related to work toward improving and sustaining the state's natural resources.
- IV. To advance crime and safety reform by protecting Louisiana's citizens of all ages from life-threatening criminal activities when they are involved in recreational activities on the state's waterways. Hours worked and public contacts associated with boating safety and waterway enforcement, education and community policing programs are the most relevant measures of the activities related to work toward reducing illegal and dangerous activities of the state's waterways.



- V. To lead, coordinate and provide emergency response services for search and rescue and maritime security operations. Enhance Louisiana's collaborative efforts in the maritime domain and build a safe and secure environment that supports public safety, public confidence and ensures economic stability.
- VI. To enhance and maintain the quantity and quality of wildlife habitat which ensures that there are diverse and sustainable wildlife populations. To provide wildlife related recreational and commercial opportunities for consumptive and non-consumptive users. To provide technical assistance and utilize educational programs to produce informed and satisfied clients.
- VII. To provide high quality fishery management information through effective data collection, analysis and information sharing. To be an effective, efficient steward of our renewable aquatic resources. Provide and enhance recreational fishing experience through improved access, opportunity and public awareness. Maintain a sustainable and economically viable fisheries environment. Create a work environment in which all Fisheries staff are enabled and empowered to achieve the Office's goals and objectives.

The Department of Wildlife and Fisheries is comprised of four agencies: Office of Management and Finance, Office of the Secretary, Office of Wildlife, and Office of Fisheries. The Office of Management and Finance is comprised of one program: Management and Finance. The Office of the Secretary is comprised of two programs: Administrative and Enforcement. The Office of Wildlife is comprised of one program: Wildlife. The Office of Fisheries is comprised of one program: Fisheries.

## Department Budget Summary

	Prior Year Actuals FY 2024-2025	Enacted FY2025-2026	Existing Operating Budget (EOB) as of 12/01/25	Continuation FY 2026-2027	Recommended FY 2026-2027	Total Recommended Over/(Under) EOB
<b>Means of Finance:</b>						
State General Fund (Direct)	\$15,098,155	\$39,831,521	\$41,304,956	\$48,696,886	\$48,648,486	\$7,343,530
<b>State General Fund by:</b>						
Interagency Transfers	12,200,713	21,325,933	26,569,969	20,237,283	19,974,252	(6,595,717)
Fees & Self-generated	7,501,751	9,808,472	10,270,251	10,627,441	10,459,910	189,659
Statutory Dedications	83,599,963	87,999,490	105,789,753	76,252,720	75,420,403	(30,369,350)
Federal Funds	70,260,759	50,685,000	67,051,207	51,294,174	50,912,227	(16,138,980)
<b>Total Means of Financing</b>	<b>188,661,340</b>	<b>209,650,416</b>	<b>250,986,136</b>	<b>207,108,504</b>	<b>205,415,278</b>	<b>(45,570,858)</b>
<b>Expenditures and Request:</b>						
Wildlife and Fisheries	20,477,332	31,400,673	39,983,995	23,541,518	24,476,935	(15,507,060)
Management and Finance						
Office of the Secretary	46,558,022	49,541,972	50,877,918	51,829,312	51,160,277	282,359
Office of Wildlife	47,319,413	63,791,175	73,458,280	66,512,897	65,785,650	(7,672,630)
Office of Fisheries	74,306,573	64,916,596	86,665,943	65,224,777	63,992,416	(22,673,527)
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>188,661,340</b>	<b>209,650,416</b>	<b>250,986,136</b>	<b>207,108,504</b>	<b>205,415,278</b>	<b>(45,570,858)</b>
<b>Authorized Positions</b>						
Classified	775	775	775	774	766	(9)
Unclassified	11	11	11	11	11	0
<b>Total Authorized Positions</b>	<b>786</b>	<b>786</b>	<b>786</b>	<b>785</b>	<b>777</b>	<b>(9)</b>
Authorized Other Charges	3	3	3	3	3	0
Positions						



## 16-511-Office of Management and Finance

### Agency Description

The Office of Management and Finance performs the financial, licensing, program evaluation, planning, and general support service functions for the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries so that the department's mission of conservation of renewable natural resources is accomplished and to provide guidance and support through exceptional customer service.

The goals of the Office of Management and Finance is to be a trusted resource that provides value through exceptional customer service.

### Agency Budget Summary

	Prior Year Actuals FY 2024-2025	Enacted FY2025-2026	Existing Operating Budget (EOB) as of 12/01/25	Continuation FY 2026-2027	Recommended FY 2026-2027	Total Recommended Over/(Under) EOB
<b>Means of Finance:</b>						
State General Fund (Direct)	\$2,873,711	\$9,604,498	\$9,604,498	\$10,992,018	\$10,992,018	\$1,387,520
<b>State General Fund by:</b>						
Interagency Transfers	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fees & Self-generated	10,450	10,450	10,450	10,736	10,450	0
Statutory Dedications	17,418,854	21,556,410	30,139,732	12,306,161	13,245,152	(16,894,580)
Federal Funds	174,317	229,315	229,315	232,603	229,315	0
<b>Total Means of Finance</b>	<b>20,477,332</b>	<b>31,400,673</b>	<b>39,983,995</b>	<b>23,541,518</b>	<b>24,476,935</b>	<b>(15,507,060)</b>
<b>Expenditures and Request:</b>						
Management and Finance	20,477,332	31,400,673	39,983,995	23,541,518	24,476,935	(15,507,060)
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>20,477,332</b>	<b>31,400,673</b>	<b>39,983,995</b>	<b>23,541,518</b>	<b>24,476,935</b>	<b>(15,507,060)</b>
<b>Authorized Positions</b>						
Classified	44	44	44	44	44	0
Unclassified	1	1	1	1	1	0
<b>Total Authorized Positions</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>0</b>
Authorized Other Charges	0	0	0	0	0	0
Positions						



## 5111-Management and Finance

### Program Authorization

*Louisiana Constitution of 1974, Article IX, Section 7; R.S.36.8 and 36.607*

### Program Description

The Management and Finance Program performs the financial, licensing, program evaluation, planning, and general support service functions for the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries so that the department's mission of conservation of renewable natural resources is accomplished.

The goals of the Management and Finance Program are:

- I. To provide the most effective and efficient services.
- II. To enforce compliance with policies and regulations in all department programs.
- III. To promote good customer service.
- IV. To increase public visibility of the department.

The activities of the Management and Finance Program are:

- **Administrative** - This activity includes the positions and funding necessary to undertake the administrative functions of the Office of Management and Finance (OMF). This Administrative activity includes the position of the Undersecretary which manages and directs the operations of these sections in OMF: Fiscal, Human Resources, Property Control, and, Licensing. The budget for this unit also includes the liability insurance premiums for the office, statewide common costs such as telephones and utilities, and state control agency costs for the whole Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.
- **Licensing and Boat Registration/Titling** - This activity is responsible for issuance of many and varied types of licenses, permits and registrations according to the statutes regulating wildlife, fisheries and boating activities for both recreational and commercial users. The recreational hunting and fishing license Point of Sale system is contracted and licenses are sold at headquarters, Wal-Mart, and statewide local vendors, while boat registrations and titles, and commercial fishing transactions are only handled either through the mail or in person at the headquarters office in Baton Rouge.
- **Support Services** - The sections in this activity perform the financial and administrative support services for all programs in the department. These include: safety program for all statewide facilities, movable property inventory and management, liability insurance claims, financial and federal grant reporting, strategic planning, cash management, accounts payable, and budget preparation and monitoring. In addition to routine support services, this activity also serves as liaison for the department with the Office of Homeland Security and the Federal Emergency Management Agency regarding damages to our facilities and the search and rescue functions.

### Program Budget Summary

	Prior Year Actuals FY 2024-2025	Enacted FY2025-2026	Existing Operating Budget (EOB) as of 12/01/25	Continuation FY 2026-2027	Recommended FY 2026-2027	Total Recommended Over/(Under) EOB
<b>Means of Finance:</b>						
State General Fund (Direct)	\$2,873,711	\$9,604,498	\$9,604,498	\$10,992,018	\$10,992,018	\$1,387,520
<b>State General Fund by:</b>						
Interagency Transfers	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fees & Self-generated	10,450	10,450	10,450	10,736	10,450	0
Statutory Dedications	17,418,854	21,556,410	30,139,732	12,306,161	13,245,152	(16,894,580)



## Program Budget Summary

	Prior Year Actuals FY 2024-2025	Enacted FY2025-2026	Existing Operating Budget (EOB) as of 12/01/25	Continuation FY 2026-2027	Recommended FY 2026-2027	Total Recommended Over/(Under) EOB
Federal Funds	174,317	229,315	229,315	232,603	229,315	0
<b>Total Means of Finance</b>	<b>20,477,332</b>	<b>31,400,673</b>	<b>39,983,995</b>	<b>23,541,518</b>	<b>24,476,935</b>	<b>(15,507,060)</b>
<b>Expenditures and Request:</b>						
Personnel Services	5,309,755	5,841,557	5,841,557	6,114,117	6,114,117	272,560
Operating Expenses	1,688,730	2,297,195	2,297,195	2,360,138	2,297,195	0
Professional Services	18,274	59,867	59,867	61,507	59,867	0
Other Charges	13,460,175	23,202,054	31,785,376	15,005,756	16,005,756	(15,779,620)
Acquisitions & Major Repairs	398	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total Expenditures &amp; Request</b>	<b>20,477,332</b>	<b>31,400,673</b>	<b>39,983,995</b>	<b>23,541,518</b>	<b>24,476,935</b>	<b>(15,507,060)</b>
<b>Authorized Positions</b>						
Classified	44	44	44	44	44	0
Unclassified	1	1	1	1	1	0
<b>Total Authorized Positions</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>0</b>
Authorized Other Charges Positions	0	0	0	0	0	0

## Source of Funding

This program is funded with the following:

- Interagency Transfers derived from:
  - Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority for reimbursements of Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) activities completed by the department.
- Funds re-classified as Fees and Self-generated Revenues:
  - LA Duck License, Stamp, and Print Dedicated Fund Account (R.S. 56:10(B))
- Statutory Dedications from the following funds:
  - Conservation Fund (R.S. 56:10(E))
  - Marsh Island Operating Fund (R.S. 56:798)
  - Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge and Game Preserve Fund (R.S. 56:797)
  - Seafood Promotion and Marketing Fund (R.S. 56:10(E))
- Federal Funds are derived from:
  - US Coast Guard, GSMFC SUP2, GSMFC - SALT Grants;
  - Economic Disaster Relief - LA (GIDS); and
  - Gulf States Marine Fisheries- Trip Ticket.

Per R.S. 39:36B.(8), see table below for a listing of each statutorily dedicated fund.



## Adjustments from Existing Operating Budget

General Fund	Total Amount	Table of Organization	Description
9,604,498	39,983,995	45	Existing Operating Budget as of 12/01/2025
<b>Statewide Adjustments</b>			
\$0	\$13,410	0	Acquisitions & Major Repairs
\$0	\$(166,570)	0	Administrative Law Judges
\$0	\$4,723	0	Civil Service Fees
\$0	\$21,954	0	Group Insurance Rate Adjustment for Active Employees
\$0	\$30,466	0	Group Insurance Rate Adjustment for Retirees
\$0	\$1,241	0	Legislative Auditor Fees
\$0	\$133,400	0	Market Rate Classified
\$0	\$(8,583,322)	0	Non-recurring Carryforwards
\$0	\$(1,138)	0	Office of State Procurement
\$0	\$2,520,090	0	Office of Technology Services (OTS)
\$0	\$28,508	0	Related Benefits Base Adjustment
\$0	\$(55,590)	0	Retirement Rate Adjustment
\$0	\$379	0	Risk Management
\$0	\$113,822	0	Salary Base Adjustment
\$0	\$(685)	0	State Treasury Fees
\$0	\$456	0	UPS Fees
0	(5,938,856)	0	<b>Total Statewide</b>
<b>Non-Statewide Adjustments</b>			
\$0	\$1,000,000	0	Increases Statutory Dedications out of the Louisiana Outdoors Forever Fund for outdoor conservation projects.
\$1,387,520	\$0	0	Means of finance substitution increasing State General Fund (Direct) and decreasing Statutory Dedications out of the Conservation Fund for personal services.
\$0	\$(1,000,000)	0	Non-recurs Statutory Dedications out of the Louisiana Outdoors Forever Fund for outdoor conservation projects that were provided during the 2025 Regular Legislative Session.
\$0	\$(9,568,204)	0	Non-recurs Statutory Dedications out of the Modernization and Security Fund for IT modernization projects provided during the 2025 Regular Legislative Session.
1,387,520	(9,568,204)	0	<b>Total Non-Statewide</b>
10,992,018	24,476,935	45	<b>Total Recommended</b>

## Fees & Self-generated

Fund	Prior Year Actuals FY 2024-2025	Enacted FY2025-2026	Existing Operating Budget (EOB) as of 12/01/25	Continuation FY 2026-2027	Recommended FY 2026-2027	Total Recommended Over/(Under) EOB
LA Duck License Stamp and Print Dedicated Fund Account	10,450	10,450	10,450	10,736	10,450	0

## Statutory Dedications

Fund	Prior Year Actuals FY 2024-2025	Enacted FY2025-2026	Existing Operating Budget (EOB) as of 12/01/25	Continuation FY 2026-2027	Recommended FY 2026-2027	Total Recommended Over/(Under) EOB
Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge and Game Preserve Fund	549	24,040	24,040	24,040	24,040	0
Marsh Island Operating Fund	1,060	6,200	6,200	6,200	6,200	0



## Statutory Dedications

Fund	Prior Year Actuals FY 2024-2025	Enacted FY2025-2026	Existing Operating Budget (EOB) as of 12/01/25	Continuation FY 2026-2027	Recommended FY 2026-2027	Total Recommended Over/(Under) EOB
Modernization And Security Fund	0	9,568,204	9,568,204	0	0	(9,568,204)
Conservation Fund	11,925,647	10,934,757	17,292,472	12,252,712	12,191,703	(5,100,769)
Seafood Promotion and Marketing Fund	16,493	23,209	23,209	23,209	23,209	0
Louisiana Outdoors Forever Fund	5,475,105	1,000,000	3,225,607	0	1,000,000	(2,225,607)

## Professional Services

Amount	Description
\$59,867	Auditing, accounting, engineering and legal services related to annual calculation of indirect rate proposal.
<b>\$59,867</b>	<b>TOTAL PROFESSIONAL SERVICES</b>

## Other Charges

Amount	Description
	<b>Other Charges:</b>
\$1,000,000	Outdoor conservation projects
<b>\$1,000,000</b>	<b>SUB-TOTAL OTHER CHARGES</b>
	<b>Interagency Transfers:</b>
\$25,562	Civil Service Fees
\$550,000	Department of Natural Resources - Funding related to the services provided by the State Mineral and Energy Review Board
\$925,325	Division of Administration - Expenditures such as state mail, printing, and telecommunications
\$136,497	Legislative Auditor Fees
\$48,594	Office of Risk Management (ORM) Fees
\$3,450	Office of State Procurement (OSP) Fees
\$13,258,454	Office of Technology Services (OTS) Fees
\$13,410	Office of Technology Services (OTS) Fees - Replacement of IT Acquisitions
\$41,015	State Treasury Fees
\$3,449	Uniform Payroll System (UPS) Fees
<b>\$15,005,756</b>	<b>SUB-TOTAL INTERAGENCY TRANSFERS</b>
<b>\$16,005,756</b>	<b>TOTAL OTHER CHARGES</b>

## Acquisitions and Major Repairs

Amount	Description
\$0	This program does not have funding for Acquisitions and Major Repairs
<b>\$0</b>	<b>TOTAL ACQUISITIONS AND MAJOR REPAIRS</b>



**Objective: 5111-01** Through the Licensing and Boat Registration/Titling activity, to provide the best possible customer satisfaction in the areas of timeliness and assistance regarding issuance of commercial licenses and permits, oyster tags, recreational licenses and permits, and boat registration and titling.

**Children's Budget Link** N/A

**HR Policies Beneficial to Women and Families Link** N/A

**Other Links (TANF, Tobacco Settlement, Workforce Development Commission, or Other)** N/A

Performance Indicator Name	Actuals FY 24-25	Initially Appropriated FY 25-26	Existing Standard FY 25-26	Continuation Budget FY 26-27	Executive Budget FY 26-27
[K] Processing return time on mailed-in applications (in working days)	13	12	12	12	12

## General Performance Indicators

Performance Indicator Name	Prior Year Actuals FY 2020-2021	Prior Year Actuals FY 2021-2022	Prior Year Actuals FY 2022-2023	Prior Year Actuals FY 2023-2024	Prior Year Actuals FY 2024-2025
Oyster harvester licenses	788	741	768	708	577
Commercial fishing licenses (Resident & Nonresident)	10,234	9,788	8,646	7,904	8,335
Seafood dealer and transport licenses	6,639	6,146	6,259	6,000	6,055
Hook and line licenses	4,587	5,565	14,982	14,175	15,139
Basic fishing licenses (Resident and Nonresident)	347,231	301,328	299,118	271,035	269,895
Saltwater licenses (Resident and nonresident)	206,446	174,736	169,003	151,636	147,525
Charter fishing trip licenses	63,788	62,566	81,807	80,964	81,563
Resident lifetime fishing and hunting licenses	16,724	48,070	6,923	0	0
Non-resident lifetime fishing and hunting licenses	14	8	3	6	6
Basic hunting licenses (Resident and nonresident)	131,150	116,541	106,808	102,041	104,750
Big game license (Resident and Nonresident)	99,549	88,935	80,116	0	0
Non-resident hunting (5-day) (All types)	25,191	26,686	0	26,583	86,712
Turkey Season	7,622	7,573	6,464	6,316	6,200
Waterfowl Season (Recreation Hunting Licenses)	40,990	36,486	31,916	29,584	31,565
Boat Registrations (New)	85,856	79,287	79,992	82,744	75,288
Boat Registrations (Renewal)	101,168	93,701	96,205	94,995	88,310
Commercial fishing gear licenses	20,949	18,265	11,441	12,424	11,708
Louisiana native hunting licenses (nonresident)	6,636	8,001	6,342	4,662	6,623
Military hunt/fish licenses (resident and nonres.)	17,438	10,734	9,586	8,144	7,841
Disabled Hunt/Fish licenses (resident)	14,305	13,136	13,161	15,339	21,090
Senior license (fishing and hunting)	135,174	112,297	137,738	135,412	146,019
Wildlife Management Area permits	30,287	28,932	42,866	0	0
Sportsman's Paradise	11,255	11,078	14,532	15,225	15,191





## 16-512-Office of the Secretary

### Agency Description

The Office of the Secretary provides executive leadership and legal support to all department programs and staff; executes and enforces the laws, rules, and regulations of the state relative to wildlife and fisheries for the purpose of conservation and renewable natural resources and relative to boating and outdoor safety for continued use and enjoyment by current and future generations.

The goals of the Office of Secretary are:

- I. To provide the most effective and efficient services, enforce compliance in all department programs, and promote good customer service, and to increase the public visibility of the department.
- II. To operate all programs efficiently and effectively through sound planning and decision-making processes resulting in achievement of the department's mission.
- III. Support outdoor-related recreational opportunities and protect public health and safety by enforcement of related laws and regulations and enhance public awareness and knowledge of those laws and regulations as a means of improving voluntary compliance.

### Agency Budget Summary

	Prior Year Actuals FY 2024-2025	Enacted FY2025-2026	Existing Operating Budget (EOB) as of 12/01/25	Continuation FY 2026-2027	Recommended FY 2026-2027	Total Recommended Over/(Under) EOB
<b>Means of Finance:</b>						
State General Fund (Direct)	\$4,667,780	\$30,227,023	\$30,309,243	\$34,002,414	\$33,954,014	\$3,644,771
<b>State General Fund by:</b>						
Interagency Transfers	265,405	329,304	486,670	329,304	329,304	(157,366)
Fees & Self-generated	349,225	344,975	344,975	344,975	300,193	(44,782)
Statutory Dedications	37,849,902	15,537,160	16,017,433	13,598,009	13,045,758	(2,971,675)
Federal Funds	3,425,710	3,103,510	3,719,597	3,554,610	3,531,008	(188,589)
<b>Total Means of Finance</b>	<b>46,558,022</b>	<b>49,541,972</b>	<b>50,877,918</b>	<b>51,829,312</b>	<b>51,160,277</b>	<b>282,359</b>
<b>Expenditures and Request:</b>						
Administrative	3,089,593	3,812,164	3,812,164	3,704,918	3,626,172	(185,992)
Enforcement	43,468,429	45,729,808	47,065,754	48,124,394	47,534,105	468,351
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>46,558,022</b>	<b>49,541,972</b>	<b>50,877,918</b>	<b>51,829,312</b>	<b>51,160,277</b>	<b>282,359</b>
<b>Authorized Positions</b>						
Classified	277	277	277	276	275	(2)
Unclassified	5	5	5	5	5	0
<b>Total Authorized Positions</b>	<b>282</b>	<b>282</b>	<b>282</b>	<b>281</b>	<b>280</b>	<b>(2)</b>
Authorized Other Charges	0	0	0	0	0	0
Positions						



## 5121-Administrative

### Program Authorization

*Louisiana Constitution of 1974; R.S. 36:601 et seq; R.S. 56:1 et seq*

### Program Description

The Administrative Program provides executive leadership and legal support to all department programs and staff.

The goal of the Administrative Program is that all programs will be operated efficiently and effectively through sound planning and decision-making resulting in sustainability of the state's natural resources.

The activity of the Administrative Program is:

- Administrative - The Administrative activity within the Office of the Secretary provides leadership, direction, and supervision to the Undersecretary, the Assistant Secretaries of the Office of Wildlife and the Office of Fisheries, the Enforcement program, the Public Information section, the Legal section and the Internal Auditor to accomplish the goals and objectives of the department, all in an effort to keep Louisiana as the Sportsman's Paradise and to have abundant and sustainable renewable resources. The Administrative activity includes the Secretary and support staff, the department's legal section, the department's public information section and the department's Internal Audit section.

### Program Budget Summary

	Prior Year Actuals FY 2024-2025	Enacted FY2025-2026	Existing Operating Budget (EOB) as of 12/01/25	Continuation FY 2026-2027	Recommended FY 2026-2027	Total Recommended Over/(Under) EOB
<b>Means of Finance:</b>						
State General Fund (Direct)	\$0	\$3,133,252	\$3,133,252	\$2,817,568	\$2,817,568	\$(315,684)
<b>State General Fund by:</b>						
Interagency Transfers	0	134,304	134,304	134,304	134,304	0
Fees & Self-generated	0	0	0	0	0	0
Statutory Dedications	3,089,593	544,608	544,608	753,046	674,300	129,692
Federal Funds	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total Means of Finance</b>	<b>3,089,593</b>	<b>3,812,164</b>	<b>3,812,164</b>	<b>3,704,918</b>	<b>3,626,172</b>	<b>(185,992)</b>
<b>Expenditures and Request:</b>						
Personnel Services	2,901,870	3,430,595	3,430,595	3,188,764	3,115,830	(314,765)
Operating Expenses	122,717	212,079	212,079	217,891	212,079	0
Professional Services	0	0	0	130,000	130,000	130,000
Other Charges	65,007	169,490	169,490	168,263	168,263	(1,227)
Acquisitions & Major Repairs	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total Expenditures &amp; Request</b>	<b>3,089,593</b>	<b>3,812,164</b>	<b>3,812,164</b>	<b>3,704,918</b>	<b>3,626,172</b>	<b>(185,992)</b>
<b>Authorized Positions</b>						
Classified	20	20	20	20	19	(1)
Unclassified	5	5	5	5	5	0
<b>Total Authorized Positions</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>(1)</b>
Authorized Other Charges Positions	0	0	0	0	0	0

### Source of Funding

This program is funded with the following:

- Interagency Transfers derived from:

- Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority for the purpose of funding a position to manage agency activities related to Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) projects.
- Statutory Dedications from the following funds:
  - Conservation Fund (R.S. 56:10(E))
  - Wildlife Habitat & Natural Heritage Fund (R.S. 56:104)

Per R.S. 39:36B.(8), see table below for a listing of each statutorily dedicated fund.

### Adjustments from Existing Operating Budget

General Fund	Total Amount	Table of Organization	Description
3,133,252	3,812,164	25	Existing Operating Budget as of 12/01/2025
<b>Statewide Adjustments</b>			
\$0	\$10,447	0	Group Insurance Rate Adjustment for Active Employees
\$0	\$2,508	0	Group Insurance Rate Adjustment for Retirees
\$0	\$60,898	0	Market Rate Classified
\$0	\$(1,227)	0	Office of State Procurement
\$0	\$(72,934)	(1)	Personnel Reductions
\$(140,189)	\$(140,189)	0	Related Benefits Base Adjustment
\$(30,930)	\$(30,930)	0	Retirement Rate Adjustment
\$(144,565)	\$(144,565)	0	Salary Base Adjustment
(315,684)	(315,992)	(1)	<b>Total Statewide</b>
<b>Non-Statewide Adjustments</b>			
\$0	\$130,000	0	Provides Statutory Dedications out of the Conservation Fund for a federal advocacy provider to enhance the department's engagement with federal agencies and expand access to competitive federal funding streams.
0	130,000	0	<b>Total Non-Statewide</b>
2,817,568	3,626,172	24	<b>Total Recommended</b>

### Statutory Dedications

Fund	Prior Year Actuals FY 2024-2025	Enacted FY2025-2026	Existing Operating Budget (EOB) as of 12/01/25	Continuation FY 2026-2027	Recommended FY 2026-2027	Total Recommended Over/(Under) EOB
Conservation Fund	2,993,781	409,439	409,439	617,877	539,131	129,692
Wildlife Habitat and Natural Heritage Trust	95,812	135,169	135,169	135,169	135,169	0

### Professional Services

Amount	Description
\$130,000	For a federal advocacy provider to enhance the department's engagement with federal agencies and expand access to competitive federal funding streams.
\$130,000	<b>TOTAL PROFESSIONAL SERVICES</b>

### Other Charges

Amount	Description
\$0	This program does not have funding for Other Charges.
\$0	<b>SUB-TOTAL OTHER CHARGES</b>

#### Interagency Transfers:



## Other Charges

Amount	Description
\$155,223	Division of Administration - Printing
\$13,040	Office of State Procurement (OSP) Fees
<b>\$168,263</b>	<b>SUB-TOTAL INTERAGENCY TRANSFERS</b>
<b>\$168,263</b>	<b>TOTAL OTHER CHARGES</b>

## Acquisitions and Major Repairs

Amount	Description
\$0	This program does not have funding for Acquisitions and Major Repairs.
<b>\$0</b>	<b>TOTAL ACQUISITIONS AND MAJOR REPAIRS</b>

**Objective: 5121-01** To provide executive leadership, legal support and internal audits to all department programs so that they are enabled to protect and preserve the wildlife and fish resources of the state.

Performance Indicator Name	Actuals FY 24-25	Initially Appropriated FY 25-26	Existing Standard FY 25-26	Continuation Budget FY 26-27	Executive Budget FY 26-27
[K] Number of repeat audit findings by the Legislative Auditor	0	0	0	0	0

## 5122-Enforcement

### Program Authorization

*Louisiana Constitution of 1974, Article IX, Section 7; R.S. 56:01 et. seq.; R.S. 36:605 B(4)(a)*

### Program Description

The mission of the Enforcement Division is to establish and maintain compliance through the execution and enforcement of laws, rules, and regulations of the state relative to the management, conservation and protection of renewable natural wildlife and fisheries resources and relative to providing public safety on the state's waterways and lands for the continued use and enjoyment by current and future generations.

The goals of the Enforcement Program are:

- I. To support natural resource preservation by providing frontline enforcement of laws, regulations, and programs related to wildlife and fisheries, conservation and management. Hours worked and public contacts associated with wildlife, fisheries, and ecosystem enforcement, education and community policing programs are the most relevant measures of the activities related to work toward improving and sustaining the state's natural resources.
- II. To advance crime and safety reform by protecting Louisiana citizens of all ages from life-threatening criminal activities when they are involved in recreational activities on the state's waterways. Hours worked and public contacts associated with boating safety and waterway enforcement, education, and community policing programs are the most relevant measures of the activities related to work toward reducing illegal and dangerous activities on the state's waterways.
- III. To lead, coordinate and provide emergency response services for search and rescue and maritime security operations. Enhance Louisiana's collaborative efforts in the maritime domain and build a safe and secure environment that supports public safety, public confidence and ensures economic stability.

The activities of the Enforcement Program are:

- **Wildlife, Fisheries and Ecosystem Enforcement (Natural Resources)** – The Enforcement Division is responsible for assuring public compliance with state and federal laws, regulations, and programs which promote, manage and enhance the conservation of Louisiana's wildlife and fisheries resources and protect and sustain their supporting ecosystems. This activity is conducted through patrols of Louisiana's forest, woods and marshes, in-vessel patrols of Louisiana's inshore and offshore waters and investigations of relevant commercial facilities. The Enforcement Division also conducts community policing activities which publicize legal practices, encourage voluntary compliance and promote safe participation in recreational and commercial activities which use Louisiana's natural resources.
- **Boating Safety and Waterway Enforcement (Public Safety)** – The Enforcement Division is responsible for providing public safety on Louisiana's vast waterways through education and enforcement of criminal statutes. These responsibilities include maintaining and improving public compliance with boating safety laws, investigating all reportable recreational boating fatalities and crash incidents, enforcing laws restricting the operation of vessels under the influence of alcohol or drugs and administering the state's mandatory boating education program for operation of motorboats. The Enforcement Division also maintains authority for permitting regattas and other marine events and ensuring compliance with boating safety regulations. The boating safety and waterway enforcement activities are conducted through boating incident investigations, community policing activities and in-vessel patrols of Louisiana's inshore and offshore waterways. These activities recruit new recreational boaters, encourage safe and legal activities, protect property and save lives. The Enforcement Division regularly coordinates its boating safety and waterway enforcement activities with local law enforcement waterway efforts to direct the state's safety efforts on Louisiana's waterways.



- Search and Rescue & Maritime Security (Public Safety, Hurricane Protection) – The Enforcement Division is responsible for providing and coordinating search and rescue response activities for the state. This activity includes state response and coordination of local, parish and federal responses to natural or man-made disasters or other homeland security events involving urban, rural and maritime search and rescue and maritime security activities. The activity includes exercises, training, first response to search and rescue events, maritime security patrols and initiatives focused on saving lives and protection of critical infrastructure. The Enforcement Division is the state's lead agency for the emergency support search and rescue and maritime security functions and supports emergency support functions for transportation, communications, firefighting, emergency management and public safety and security.

## Program Budget Summary

	Prior Year Actuals FY 2024-2025	Enacted FY2025-2026	Existing Operating Budget (EOB) as of 12/01/25	Continuation FY 2026-2027	Recommended FY 2026-2027	Total Recommended Over/(Under) EOB
<b>Means of Finance:</b>						
State General Fund (Direct)	\$4,667,780	\$27,093,771	\$27,175,991	\$31,184,846	\$31,136,446	\$3,960,455
<b>State General Fund by:</b>						
Interagency Transfers	265,405	195,000	352,366	195,000	195,000	(157,366)
Fees & Self-generated	349,225	344,975	344,975	344,975	300,193	(44,782)
Statutory Dedications	34,760,309	14,992,552	15,472,825	12,844,963	12,371,458	(3,101,367)
Federal Funds	3,425,710	3,103,510	3,719,597	3,554,610	3,531,008	(188,589)
<b>Total Means of Finance</b>	<b>43,468,429</b>	<b>45,729,808</b>	<b>47,065,754</b>	<b>48,124,394</b>	<b>47,534,105</b>	<b>468,351</b>
<b>Expenditures and Request:</b>						
Personnel Services	33,411,418	34,294,967	34,385,777	35,758,774	35,336,199	950,422
Operating Expenses	4,657,301	5,993,137	6,281,258	6,157,349	5,993,137	(288,121)
Professional Services	9,304	127,798	127,798	131,300	127,798	0
Other Charges	3,677,554	4,643,106	4,643,106	4,760,971	4,760,971	117,865
Acquisitions & Major Repairs	1,712,852	670,800	1,627,815	1,316,000	1,316,000	(311,815)
<b>Total Expenditures &amp; Request</b>	<b>43,468,429</b>	<b>45,729,808</b>	<b>47,065,754</b>	<b>48,124,394</b>	<b>47,534,105</b>	<b>468,351</b>
<b>Authorized Positions</b>						
Classified	257	257	257	256	256	(1)
Unclassified	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total Authorized Positions</b>	<b>257</b>	<b>257</b>	<b>257</b>	<b>256</b>	<b>256</b>	<b>(1)</b>
Authorized Other Charges Positions	0	0	0	0	0	0

## Source of Funding

This program is funded with the following:

- Interagency Transfers derived from:
  - Department of Wildlife and Fisheries - Office of Wildlife and Office of Fisheries for the purpose of funding operational expenditures related to the use of the Enforcement Program's airplane.
- Fees and Self-generated Revenues derived from:
  - Fees from local governments and organizations needing assistance in response to disasters;
  - Fees from fraud Investigations related to the BP Oil Spill;
  - Fees from patrolling to secure areas related to various oil spill cleanups, and patrolling to secure areas that are undergoing reconstruction of boating accidents; and

- Fees from security details related to events such as La Wildlife and Fisheries Foundation Wild Night Fund-raiser.
- Funds re-classified as Fees & Self-generated Revenues:
  - Oyster Sanitation Dedicated Fund Account (R.S. 40:5.10)
- Statutory Dedications from the following funds:
  - Conservation Fund (R.S. 56:10 (E))
  - Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge and Game Preserve Fund (R.S. 56:797)
  - Litter Abatement and Education Account (R.S. 56:10(B)(15))
  - Marsh Island Operating Fund (R.S. 56:798)
  - Crab Development, Management, and Derelict Crab Trap Removal Account (R.S. 56:10(B)(1)(e))
  - Shrimp Development and Management Account (R.S. 56:10(B)(1)(b)(ii))
  - Oyster Resource Management Account (R.S. 56:10(B)(4)(a))
- Federal Funds derived from:
  - The United States Coast Guard; and
  - Joint Enforcement Agreement - United States' Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Office of Law Enforcement

Per R.S. 39:36B.(8), see table below for a listing of each statutorily dedicated fund.

### Adjustments from Existing Operating Budget

General Fund	Total Amount	Table of Organization	Description
27,175,991	47,065,754	257	Existing Operating Budget as of 12/01/2025
<b>Statewide Adjustments</b>			
\$902,000	\$1,316,000	0	Acquisitions & Major Repairs
\$(270,149)	\$(270,149)	(1)	Annualization of Preamble Section 19 Personal Services reduction in Act 1 of the 2025 RLS
\$0	\$(422,575)	0	Attrition Adjustment
\$0	\$14,658	0	Civil Service Fees
\$0	\$13,427	0	Civil Service Training Series
\$0	\$127,654	0	Group Insurance Rate Adjustment for Active Employees
\$0	\$113,453	0	Group Insurance Rate Adjustment for Retirees
\$0	\$816,342	0	Market Rate Classified
\$0	\$(1,286,887)	0	Non-Recurring Acquisitions & Major Repairs
\$(82,220)	\$719,859	0	Non-recurring Carryforwards
\$0	\$360,555	0	Office of Technology Services (OTS)
\$0	\$327,527	0	Related Benefits Base Adjustment
\$0	\$(300,049)	0	Retirement Rate Adjustment
\$0	\$(257,971)	0	Risk Management
\$0	\$635,602	0	Salary Base Adjustment
\$0	\$623	0	UPS Fees
549,631	468,351	(1)	<b>Total Statewide</b>
<b>Non-Statewide Adjustments</b>			
\$3,410,824	\$0	0	Means of finance substitution increasing State General Fund (Direct) and decreasing Statutory Dedications out of the Conservation Fund for personal services.
3,410,824	0	0	<b>Total Non-Statewide</b>
31,136,446	47,534,105	256	<b>Total Recommended</b>



## Fees & Self-generated

Fund	Prior Year Actuals FY 2024-2025	Enacted FY2025-2026	Existing Operating Budget (EOB) as of 12/01/25	Continuation FY 2026-2027	Recommended FY 2026-2027	Total Recommended Over/(Under) EOB
Fees & Self-generated Revenues	189,074	127,000	127,000	127,000	127,000	0
Oyster Sanitation Dedicated Fund Account	160,151	217,975	217,975	217,975	173,193	(44,782)

## Statutory Dedications

Fund	Prior Year Actuals FY 2024-2025	Enacted FY2025-2026	Existing Operating Budget (EOB) as of 12/01/25	Continuation FY 2026-2027	Recommended FY 2026-2027	Total Recommended Over/(Under) EOB
Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge and Game Preserve Fund	67,856	116,846	116,846	116,846	116,846	0
Marsh Island Operating Fund	12,946	32,038	32,038	32,038	32,038	0
State Emergency Response Fund	979,865	0	0	0	0	0
Conservation Fund	33,299,445	14,297,968	14,778,241	12,150,275	11,676,874	(3,101,367)
Crab Development, Management & Derelict Crab Trap Removal	71,650	113,000	113,000	113,000	113,000	0
Litter Abatement and Education Account	66,502	99,800	99,800	99,904	99,800	0
Shrimp Development and Management Account	69,087	70,900	70,900	70,900	70,900	0
Oyster Resource Management Account	192,958	262,000	262,000	262,000	262,000	0

## Professional Services

Amount	Description
\$12,000	Avant & Falcon - for legal services regarding employee matters
\$43,324	Pre-employment exams, drug testing, and psychological evaluations for law enforcement
\$4,474	Services to provide a 5-day airboat training course and other required training.
\$68,000	Research and develop educational material and questions for assessment based on rules and regulations established by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.
<b>\$127,798</b>	<b>TOTAL PROFESSIONAL SERVICES</b>

## Other Charges

Amount	Description
<b>Other Charges:</b>	
\$41,465	Funding provided for Enforcement Covert Operations
\$10,000	Rewards - payment for information leading to the arrest of those who commit natural resources and ecosystem type crimes
\$5,000	Enforcement details for private entities
\$15,000	Waddill Training Academy use by other entities
\$685,522	Outfitting new vehicles to Wildlife enforcement specifications including sirens, gun racks, light bars, etc.
<b>\$756,987</b>	<b>SUB-TOTAL OTHER CHARGES</b>
<b>Interagency Transfers:</b>	
\$159,432	Civil Service Fees
\$588,885	Office Aircraft Services
\$1,506,090	Office of Risk Management (ORM) Fees





## Other Charges

Amount	Description
\$1,735,264	Office of Technology Services (OTS) Fees
\$14,313	Uniform Payroll System (UPS) Fees
<b>\$4,003,984</b>	<b>SUB-TOTAL INTERAGENCY TRANSFERS</b>
<b>\$4,760,971</b>	<b>TOTAL OTHER CHARGES</b>

## Acquisitions and Major Repairs

Amount	Description
\$828,000	Replacement equipment for boats including motors and electronics to conduct boating safety patrols and search and rescue.
\$288,000	Replacement of service weapons.
\$200,000	Major repairs to vehicles and boats.
<b>\$1,316,000</b>	<b>TOTAL ACQUISITIONS AND MAJOR REPAIRS</b>

**Objective: 5122-01** Through the Wildlife, Fisheries and Ecosystem Enforcement activity, to enhance compliance by monitoring persons engaged in the use of Louisiana's natural resources by increasing the number of public contacts made by wildlife enforcement agents.

**Children's Budget Link** N/A

**HR Policies Beneficial to Women and Families Link** N/A

**Other Links (TANF, Tobacco Settlement, Workforce Development Commission, or Other)** N/A

Performance Indicator Name	Actuals FY 24-25	Initially Appropriated FY 25-26	Existing Standard FY 25-26	Continuation Budget FY 26-27	Executive Budget FY 26-27
[S] Public contacts associated with wildlife, fisheries and ecosystem patrols, investigations, education and community policing/outreach	240,047	300,000	300,000	300,000	300,000
[S] Hours worked associated with wildlife, fisheries and ecosystem patrols, investigations, education and community policing/outreach	184,254	225,000	225,000	225,000	225,000
[K] Observed compliance - recreational fishing	96.6	96.5	96.5	96.5	96.5
[K] Observed compliance - commercial fishing/excluding oysters	96.42	98%	98%	98%	98%
[K] Observed compliance - oyster fishing	98.26	96%	96%	96%	96%
[K] Observed compliance - hunting/wildlife	94.16	96%	96%	96%	96%
[K] Observed compliance - commercial fishing	97.26	97%	97%	97%	97%
[K] Observed compliance - wildlife, fisheries, and ecosystems	95.53	96.5	96.5	96.5	96.5

**Objective: 5122-02** Through the Boating Safety and Waterway Enforcement activity, to enhance public safety on the state's waterways by monitoring persons who utilize the waters by increasing the number of public contacts made by Wildlife enforcement agents.

**Children's Budget Link** N/A

**HR Policies Beneficial to Women and Families Link** N/A

**Other Links (TANF, Tobacco Settlement, Workforce Development Commission, or Other)** N/A

Performance Indicator Name	Actuals FY 24-25	Initially Appropriated FY 25-26	Existing Standard FY 25-26	Continuation Budget FY 26-27	Executive Budget FY 26-27
[S] Number of boating crashes	131	190	190	190	190
[S] Number of boating accidents with alcohol or drugs involved	11	20	20	20	20
[S] Public contacts associated with boating safety patrols, investigations, education and community policing outreach efforts	119,561	260,000	260,000	260,000	260,000
[S] Hours worked associated with boating safety patrols, investigations, education and community policing/outreach efforts	53,767	125,000	125,000	125,000	125,000
[K] Observed compliance - boating safety and waterway enforcement; percent of boating public observed to be in compliance with the state's boating safety and waterway regulations	96.07	96.5	96.5	96.5	96.5
[K] Number of boating crashes per 100,000 registered boats	45.48	45	45	45	45



Performance Indicator Name	Actuals FY 24-25	Initially Appropriated FY 25-26	Existing Standard FY 25-26	Continuation Budget FY 26-27	Executive Budget FY 26-27
[K] Number of boating fatalities per 100,000 vessels	3.12	7	7	7	7
[K] Observed Compliance - boating safety administrative regulations; percent of vessels observed to be in compliance with state boating safety and waterways administrative compliance	96.28	97%	97%	97%	97%
[K] Observed Compliance - boating safety operational and safety equipment regulations; percent of vessels observed to be in compliance with state boating safety and waterways operational and safety regulations	91.06	94%	94%	94%	94%
[S] Number of students completing boating safety course	11,058	6,700	6,700	6,700	6,700

## General Performance Indicators

Performance Indicator Name	Prior Year Actuals FY 2020-2021	Prior Year Actuals FY 2021-2022	Prior Year Actuals FY 2022-2023	Prior Year Actuals FY 2023-2024	Prior Year Actuals FY 2024-2025
Number of registered boats	315,723	314,790	297,824	289,464	287,595
Authorized enforcement agent positions	235	234	215	234	204

**Objective: 5122-03** Through the Search and Rescue and Maritime Security activity, to provide search and rescue, maritime security and public safety services through proactive and reactive law enforcement man-hours.

**Children's Budget Link** N/A

**HR Policies Beneficial to Women and Families Link** N/A

**Other Links (TANF, Tobacco Settlement, Workforce Development Commission, or Other)** N/A

Performance Indicator Name	Actuals FY 24-25	Initially Appropriated FY 25-26	Existing Standard FY 25-26	Continuation Budget FY 26-27	Executive Budget FY 26-27
[S] Hours worked associated with search and rescue, maritime and homeland security and other emergency support activities	88,229	21,000	21,000	21,000	21,000
[K] Percent of search and rescue missions conducted safely	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
[K] Percent of search and rescue missions conducted successfully	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%



## 16-513-Office of Wildlife

### Agency Description

The Office of Wildlife provides wise stewardship of Louisiana's wildlife and associated habitats and increase wildlife conservation awareness.

The goals of the Office of Wildlife are:

- I. To enhance and maintain quantity and quality of wildlife habitat to ensure diverse and sustainable wildlife populations.
- II. To collect and analyze data on wildlife and associated habitats and provide sound management techniques.
- III. To provide hunter education services and enhanced wildlife conservation and shooting sports programs for the purpose of recruitment and retention of a safe, ethical constituency.

### Agency Budget Summary

	Prior Year Actuals FY 2024-2025	Enacted FY2025-2026	Existing Operating Budget (EOB) as of 12/01/25	Continuation FY 2026-2027	Recommended FY 2026-2027	Total Recommended Over/(Under) EOB
<b>Means of Finance:</b>						
State General Fund (Direct)	\$1,122,002	\$0	\$1,391,215	\$1,689,407	\$1,689,407	\$298,192
<b>State General Fund by:</b>						
Interagency Transfers	4,453,912	3,998,468	4,157,927	4,231,386	4,214,897	56,970
Fees & Self-generated	3,269,031	4,168,382	4,523,484	4,838,845	4,797,909	274,425
Statutory Dedications	15,179,194	25,287,860	28,963,120	25,589,891	25,050,714	(3,912,406)
Federal Funds	23,295,274	30,336,465	34,422,534	30,163,368	30,032,723	(4,389,811)
<b>Total Means of Finance</b>	<b>47,319,413</b>	<b>63,791,175</b>	<b>73,458,280</b>	<b>66,512,897</b>	<b>65,785,650</b>	<b>(7,672,630)</b>
<b>Expenditures and Request:</b>						
Wildlife	47,319,413	63,791,175	73,458,280	66,512,897	65,785,650	(7,672,630)
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>47,319,413</b>	<b>63,791,175</b>	<b>73,458,280</b>	<b>66,512,897</b>	<b>65,785,650</b>	<b>(7,672,630)</b>
<b>Authorized Positions</b>						
Classified	222	222	222	222	220	(2)
Unclassified	4	4	4	4	4	0
<b>Total Authorized Positions</b>	<b>226</b>	<b>226</b>	<b>226</b>	<b>226</b>	<b>224</b>	<b>(2)</b>
Authorized Other Charges Positions	3	3	3	3	3	0



## 5132-Wildlife

### Program Authorization

*Louisiana Constitution of 1974, Article IX, Section 7; R.S. 36:13 et seq.; R.S. 56:1 et seq.*

### Program Description

The Wildlife Program provides wise stewardship of the state's wildlife and habitats, to maintain biodiversity, including plant and animal species of special concern and to provide outdoor opportunities and education for present and future generations to engender a greater appreciation of the natural environment.

The goals of the Wildlife Program are:

- I. To enhance and maintain quantity and quality of wildlife habitat which ensures diverse and sustainable wildlife populations in the State of Louisiana.
- II. To provide wildlife related recreational and commercial opportunities for consumptive and non-consumptive users.
- III. To provide technical assistance and utilize educational programs to produce informed and satisfied clients.

The activities of the Wildlife Program are:

- **Habitat Stewardship** - This activity is responsible for the management of the Wildlife Management Area (WMA)/Refuge system. This activity, through maintenance and habitat management practices is designed to improve the quality and quantity of public outdoor recreational opportunities. It provides and maintains public access to the WMA system. This activity serves to maintain, enhance and protect the habitat necessary to sustain the wildlife resources in Louisiana. Healthy sustainable habitat for wildlife is vital to natural resource conservation in Louisiana. Management activities include habitat (waterfowl impoundments, food plots, opening management, prescribed burning forest management) and infrastructure (roads, trails, campgrounds) development and maintenance as well as monitoring public use, habitat conditions and various wildlife populations. Public access, including hunting or fishing, is a key element of every WMA and Refuge.
- **Species Management** - This activity serves to monitor the health and status of wildlife populations statewide. This is achieved through research, surveys, and data analysis to ensure availability for safe utilization and enjoyment by the public. While these activities are predominantly performed on Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs), personnel also provide technical assistance to the public on habitat enhancement and management specifically for deer, waterfowl, upland game and turkey. This activity is responsible for setting hunting seasons for the various game species in Louisiana. Personnel in this activity develop population estimates through various scientific methods (aerial surveys, banding, habitat evaluations, etc.) This activity serves to maintain and protect Louisiana's wildlife for future generations, by proper determination of game species status and respective season establishments. This activity is responsible for the proper management of alligator and furbearer resources of the State and meeting all federal and Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species Treaty requirements. Other responsibilities include implementing the Nutria Control Program which, through federal funding, provides incentive payments to fur trappers to increase the nutria harvest in order to minimize the impact of nutria on coastal wetland habitats.
- **Education Outreach** - The Louisiana Hunter Education Program provides the public with credentials documenting successful completion of a hunter education training course. It provides basic hunter education training to the public in the safe use of hunting equipment, hunter responsibility, ethics, and knowledge of wildlife resources. It provides training to persons desiring to become hunter education instructors and in service training for instructors to remain current with programs policies and procedures. It also conducts evaluations of volunteer instructors and makes recommendations or changes based upon information gathered. Environmental Education reviews and initiates education grants to help classroom teachers buy the tools needed for environ-

mental science education. It also provides professional non-formal educator grants for putting on environmental education workshops, and university grants for Master or PhD students to fund their research. In addition, it facilitates a state symposium for environmental educators. Environmental awareness is also achieved through a state art and language arts environmental awareness contest and a website containing news, events and resources pertaining to environmental issues.

## Program Budget Summary

	Prior Year Actuals FY 2024-2025	Enacted FY2025-2026	Existing Operating Budget (EOB) as of 12/01/25	Continuation FY 2026-2027	Recommended FY 2026-2027	Total Recommended Over/((Under) EOB
<b>Means of Finance:</b>						
State General Fund (Direct)	\$1,122,002	\$0	\$1,391,215	\$1,689,407	\$1,689,407	\$298,192
<b>State General Fund by:</b>						
Interagency Transfers	4,453,912	3,998,468	4,157,927	4,231,386	4,214,897	56,970
Fees & Self-generated	3,269,031	4,168,382	4,523,484	4,838,845	4,797,909	274,425
Statutory Dedications	15,179,194	25,287,860	28,963,120	25,589,891	25,050,714	(3,912,406)
Federal Funds	23,295,274	30,336,465	34,422,534	30,163,368	30,032,723	(4,389,811)
<b>Total Means of Finance</b>	<b>47,319,413</b>	<b>63,791,175</b>	<b>73,458,280</b>	<b>66,512,897</b>	<b>65,785,650</b>	<b>(7,672,630)</b>
<b>Expenditures and Request:</b>						
Personnel Services	22,377,134	23,555,355	23,555,355	24,810,493	24,365,464	810,109
Operating Expenses	5,789,991	6,287,090	6,332,844	6,463,858	6,291,590	(41,254)
Professional Services	1,659,920	4,012,789	5,748,064	4,190,639	4,080,689	(1,667,375)
Other Charges	10,602,186	20,247,832	24,861,280	20,954,138	20,954,138	(3,907,142)
Acquisitions & Major Repairs	6,890,183	9,688,109	12,960,737	10,093,769	10,093,769	(2,866,968)
<b>Total Expenditures &amp; Request</b>	<b>47,319,413</b>	<b>63,791,175</b>	<b>73,458,280</b>	<b>66,512,897</b>	<b>65,785,650</b>	<b>(7,672,630)</b>
<b>Authorized Positions</b>						
Classified	222	222	222	222	220	(2)
Unclassified	4	4	4	4	4	0
<b>Total Authorized Positions</b>	<b>226</b>	<b>226</b>	<b>226</b>	<b>226</b>	<b>224</b>	<b>(2)</b>
Authorized Other Charges Positions	3	3	3	3	3	0

## Source of Funding

This program is funded with the following:

- Interagency Transfers derived from:
  - Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority;
  - Department of Natural Resources;
  - Department of Agriculture and Forestry; and
  - Department of Transportation.
- Fees and Self-generated Revenues derived from:
  - The Red River Waterway Commission
  - Louisiana Wildlife Foundation
- Funds re-classified as Fees and Self-generated Revenues:
  - Louisiana Alligator Resource Fund Account Dedicated Fund Account (R.S. 56:279)



- Louisiana Duck License, Stamp, and Print Dedicated Fund Account (R.S. 56:10(B))
- Statutory Dedications from the following funds:
  - Conservation Fund (R.S. 56:10(E))
  - Conservation of the Black Bear Account (R.S. 56:10, R.S. 47:463.45)
  - Conservation – Quail Account (R.S. 56:10, R.S. 47:463.46)
  - Conservation – White Tail Deer Account (R.S. 47:463.86; R.S. 56:10)
  - Louisiana Fur Public Education and Marketing Fund (R.S. 56:266)
  - Louisiana Wild Turkey Fund (R.S. 56:164)
  - Marsh Island Operating Fund (R.S. 56:798)
  - MC Davis Conservation Fund (R.S. 56:799)
  - Oil Spill Contingency Fund (R.S. 30:2483; ART. VII, SECT. 10.7)
  - Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge and Game Preserve Fund (R.S. 56:797)
  - Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge Trust and Protection Fund (R.S. 56:797/798; ART. VII, SECT 14)
  - Russell Sage Special Fund #2 (R.S. 56:798)
  - White Lake Property Fund (R.S. 56:799.3)
  - Wildlife Habitat and Natural Heritage Trust (R.S. 56:1921-1925; R.S. 56:104)
- Federal Funds derived from:
  - Fish and Wildlife Sportfish and Wildlife Restoration;
  - Endangered Species;
  - United States Department of Commerce National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration;
  - State Wildlife Grants;
  - Wildlife Conservation and Restoration Program; and
  - North American Wetlands Conservation Act.

Per R.S. 39:36B.(8), see table below for a listing of each statutorily dedicated fund.

### Adjustments from Existing Operating Budget

General Fund	Total Amount	Table of Organization	Description
1,391,215	73,458,280	226	Existing Operating Budget as of 12/01/2025

#### Statewide Adjustments

\$0	\$10,263,369	0	Acquisitions & Major Repairs
\$0	\$(276,919)	0	Attrition Adjustment
\$0	\$9,128	0	Civil Service Fees
\$0	\$19,718	0	Civil Service Training Series
\$0	\$102,301	0	Group Insurance Rate Adjustment for Active Employees
\$0	\$66,643	0	Group Insurance Rate Adjustment for Retirees
\$0	\$579,313	0	Market Rate Classified
\$0	\$(11,828,479)	0	Non-Recurring Acquisitions & Major Repairs
\$(1,391,215)	\$(7,526,735)	0	Non-recurring Carryforwards



## Adjustments from Existing Operating Budget

General Fund	Total Amount	Table of Organization	Description
\$0	\$(3,376)	0	Office of State Procurement
\$0	\$279,543	0	Office of Technology Services (OTS)
\$0	\$(168,110)	(2)	Personnel Reductions
\$0	\$266,824	0	Related Benefits Base Adjustment
\$0	\$(205,525)	0	Retirement Rate Adjustment
\$0	\$64,003	0	Risk Management
\$0	\$425,864	0	Salary Base Adjustment
\$0	\$(7,362)	0	Topographic Mapping
\$0	\$878	0	UPS Fees
<b>(1,391,215)</b>	<b>(7,938,922)</b>	<b>(2)</b>	<b>Total Statewide</b>

### Non-Statewide Adjustments

\$0	\$8,436	0	Adjusts funding for services provided by the Office of Aircraft Services.
\$0	\$469,027	0	Annualizes Fees and Self-generated Revenues for services supporting restoration and conservation activities through the America the Beautiful Cooperative Endeavor from the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks.
\$0	\$37,500	0	Increases Fees and Self-generated Revenues for wild turkey habitat improvements within Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs).
\$0	\$4,500	0	Increases Fees and Self-generated Revenues to attend whooping crane activities and conferences.
\$0	\$30,400	0	Increases Statutory Dedications out of the Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge Trust and Protection Fund (\$10,700) and Wildlife Habitat and Natural Heritage Trust Fund (\$19,700) for research on marsh management and improvements for threatened or endangered species inhabits.
\$0	\$0	0	Means of finance substitution increasing Fees and Self-generated Revenues and decreasing Statutory Dedications out of the Conservation Fund for the usage of Enforcement's aircraft for whooping crane activities.
\$1,689,407	\$0	0	Means of finance substitution increasing State General Fund (Direct) and decreasing Statutory Dedications out of the Conservation Fund for personal services.
\$0	\$(500,000)	0	Non-recurs Statutory Dedications out of the White Lake Property Fund for one-time White Lake Property repair needs.
\$0	\$216,429	0	Provides Interagency Transfers from the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA) for two (2) new recreational trails projects with the Office of State Parks and CPRA Nutria Control.
<b>1,689,407</b>	<b>266,292</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>Total Non-Statewide</b>
<b>1,689,407</b>	<b>65,785,650</b>	<b>224</b>	<b>Total Recommended</b>

## Fees & Self-generated

Fund	Prior Year Actuals FY 2024-2025	Enacted FY2025-2026	Existing Operating Budget (EOB) as of 12/01/25	Continuation FY 2026-2027	Recommended FY 2026-2027	Total Recommended Over/(Under) EOB
Fees & Self-generated Revenues	195,687	271,000	310,227	835,870	834,527	524,300
LA Duck License Stamp and Print Dedicated Fund Account	806,795	1,034,600	1,309,341	1,052,410	1,034,600	(274,741)
Louisiana Alligator Resource Dedicated Fund Account	2,266,548	2,862,782	2,903,916	2,950,565	2,928,782	24,866





## Statutory Dedications

Fund	Prior Year Actuals FY 2024-2025	Enacted FY2025-2026	Existing Operating Budget (EOB) as of 12/01/25	Continuation FY 2026-2027	Recommended FY 2026-2027	Total Recommended Over/(Under) EOB
Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge and Game Preserve Fund	2,175,215	3,739,393	4,585,403	3,419,633	3,393,343	(1,192,060)
Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge Trust and Protection Fund	999,466	2,863,883	5,027,997	3,277,276	3,274,130	(1,753,867)
Marsh Island Operating Fund	25,005	155,570	155,570	131,762	129,570	(26,000)
Russell Sage Special Fund #2	0	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000	0
Oil Spill Contingency Fund	192,522	323,659	323,659	332,008	331,159	7,500
Conservation Fund	9,737,110	11,843,566	12,468,955	12,283,962	11,795,893	(673,062)
Louisiana Fur Public Education and Marketing Fund	52,882	61,800	68,049	60,774	59,500	(8,549)
Wildlife Habitat and Natural Heritage Trust	643,072	1,595,427	1,622,325	1,833,970	1,830,682	208,357
Scenic Rivers Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Natural Heritage Account	0	0	0	0	0	0
Louisiana Wild Turkey Fund	2,210	30,100	30,100	33,549	32,850	2,750
Conservation -- Waterfowl Account	237,360	0	0	0	0	0
Conservation of the Black Bear Account	22,677	208,500	208,500	213,994	208,500	0
Conservation--Quail Account	21,342	18,987	25,587	19,124	18,987	(6,600)
Conservation--White Tail Deer Account	15	15,700	15,700	15,974	15,700	0
White Lake Property Fund	1,070,318	1,920,500	1,920,500	1,462,316	1,455,000	(465,500)
MC Davis Conservation Fund	0	10,775	10,775	5,549	5,400	(5,375)

## Professional Services

Amount	Description
\$50,000	Black bear habitat improvement - prescribed burning, habitat manipulations, and habitat treatments at black bear occupied Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs)
\$537,730	Burning on Sandy Hollow WMA; Disease Testing; DNA analysis (bear); Engineering and design of restoration and habitat projects; Lake Ramsey Savannah WMA prescribed burning; Louisiana Forestry Association and Sustainable Forest Initiative payment for State Implementation Committee (SFI) certification; Marine surveyor services to advise on vessel repair & construction needs; SFI administrative payment; SFI audit, certification, and surveillance; Dredging and replacing pilings for the Atchafalaya Delta Wildlife Management Area houseboat mooring.
\$12,800	Continuing Red-Cockaded Woodpecker management on state, federal, and private lands
\$1,485,143	Engineering for Wetland Reserve Easements restoration; Fireline Installation: range design and construction engineering; and additional Chronic Wasting Disease testing
\$1,995,016	Veterinary diagnostic services; alligator health surveillance; alligator nutrition research; Communication Strategy for Alligator Program; World Conservation Monitoring Center, International Alligator and Crocodile Trade Study Report; assist with developing federal laws and regulations impacting fur/hide management; technical representation
<b>\$4,080,689</b>	<b>TOTAL PROFESSIONAL SERVICES</b>

## Other Charges

Amount	Description
	<b>Other Charges:</b>
\$680,000	Louisiana Waterfowl Project; Regional Conservation Partnership Program water management in brakes; working lands shorebird management; Hunter/Harvest survey research; Wood duck research
\$1,229,530	Five contracts with Ducks Unlimited, Delta Manitoba Habitat contract, Saskatchewan Legacy contract; and LA Coastal Grasslands Restoration Incentive Programs
\$90,768	Nuisance alligator payment program; technical representation; marketing; AirOne Helicopter contract





## Other Charges

Amount	Description
\$3,622,098	Coastwide Nutria Control Program; Natural Resources Damage Assessment; Alligator Snapping Turtle Head Start Program
\$469,027	Restoration and conservation activities through the America the Beautiful Cooperative Endeavor
\$2,670,811	Wetland Reserve Easements Restoration Projects, Chronic Wasting Disease Sampling/Testing, Mold Analysis, and other wildlife research projects
\$200,000	University of Tennessee for Black Bear Habitat Improvement; habitat treatments at black bear occupied Wildlife Management Areas
\$50,000	LSU Chronic Wasting Disease testing
\$6,839,749	Multiple federal contracts with LSU, Nicholls State, & University of Georgia - Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) land owner agreements, private land owner projects; and gun range development
\$1,000,000	Cooperative Endeavor Agreements for improvements to Marsh Island control structures
\$621,430	Ducks Unlimited White Lake Shore Line Project
\$46,000	Salaries and Related Benefits for Other Charges positions
<b>\$17,519,413</b>	<b>SUB-TOTAL OTHER CHARGES</b>
<b>Interagency Transfers:</b>	
\$250	Board of Pharmacy - Controlled substance licenses for Wildlife veterinarian
\$250	Board of Veterinary Medicine - Certification for Wildlife veterinarian
\$107,830	Civil Service Fees
\$655	Department of Public Safety for back-office functions such as Human Resources
\$763,520	Division of Administration - Expenditures such as state mail, printing, and telecommunications
\$42,050	Louisiana Property Assistance Agency - GPS Tracking
\$35,102	Louisiana Property Assistance Agency - Pesticides, Office Supplies, Surplus Furniture and Equipment
\$62,452	Office of Aircraft Services
\$1,324,312	Office of Risk Management (ORM) Fees
\$53,479	Office of State Procurement (OSP) Fees
\$776,126	Office of Technology Services (OTS) Fees
\$169,600	Office of Technology Services (OTS) - Replacement of IT Acquisitions
\$86,112	Topographical Mapping
\$12,987	Uniform Payroll System (UPS) Fees
<b>\$3,434,725</b>	<b>SUB-TOTAL INTERAGENCY TRANSFERS</b>
<b>\$20,954,138</b>	<b>TOTAL OTHER CHARGES</b>

## Acquisitions and Major Repairs

Amount	Description
\$2,239,229	Replacement of vehicles, including trucks, and ATVs, boats, motors and marine equipment
\$1,744,000	Land management and science equipment
\$687,000	Sheds, storage, and trailers
\$39,000	Replacement of firearms
\$5,384,540	Major repairs to UTVs, vehicles, vessels, boats, and field equipment
<b>\$10,093,769</b>	<b>TOTAL ACQUISITIONS AND MAJOR REPAIRS</b>

**Objective: 5132-01** Through the Habitat Stewardship activity, to enhance and maintain the quantity and quality of wildlife habitat to ensure that there are diverse and sustainable wildlife populations in the State of Louisiana.

**Children's Budget Link** N/A

**HR Policies Beneficial to Women and Families Link** N/A

**Other Links (TANF, Tobacco Settlement, Workforce Development Commission, or Other)** N/A

Performance Indicator Name	Actuals FY 24-25	Initially Appropriated FY 25-26	Existing Standard FY 25-26	Continuation Budget FY 26-27	Executive Budget FY 26-27
[K] Acres impacted by habitat enhancement projects and habitat management activities	399,119	400,000	400,000	400,000	400,000
[K] Number of users that utilize the Department's Wildlife Management Areas and Wildlife Refuges	447,389	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000



## General Performance Indicators

Performance Indicator Name	Prior Year Actuals FY 2020-2021	Prior Year Actuals FY 2021-2022	Prior Year Actuals FY 2022-2023	Prior Year Actuals FY 2023-2024	Prior Year Actuals FY 2024-2025
Participants in designated Youth Hunting Activities on the Wildlife Management Areas	2,040	266	761	241	561
Number of acres in Wildlife Management Areas and Refuge System	3,008,144	3,008,144	1,504,072	1,647,017	1,577,459

**Objective: 5132-02** Through the Species Management activity, to collect and analyze data on wildlife and associated habitat, and provide sound management techniques.

**Children's Budget Link** N/A

**HR Policies Beneficial to Women and Families Link** N/A

**Other Links (TANF, Tobacco Settlement, Workforce Development Commission, or Other)** N/A

Performance Indicator Name	Actuals FY 24-25	Initially Appropriated FY 25-26	Existing Standard FY 25-26	Continuation Budget FY 26-27	Executive Budget FY 26-27
[K] Number of new or updated Element Occurrence Records (EORs)	0	300	300	300	300
[S] Number of written comments issued on environmental permit applications	797	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
[S] Number of Scenic River Permits determinations issued	39	30	30	30	30
[K] Acres impacted by nutria herbivory	3,854	4,500	4,500	4,500	4,500
[K] Number of habitat evaluations and population surveys	1,901	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500
[S] Number of wood ducks banded	2,658	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000

## General Performance Indicators

Performance Indicator Name	Prior Year Actuals FY 2020-2021	Prior Year Actuals FY 2021-2022	Prior Year Actuals FY 2022-2023	Prior Year Actuals FY 2023-2024	Prior Year Actuals FY 2024-2025
Number of White-tailed deer harvested	767,200	933,600	435,400	262,400	239,000
Number of acres in Louisiana Waterfowl Program (LWP)	329,324	365,336	162,668	76,779	76,239
Total number of hunter-days annually	23,929,600	27,268,400	12,501,400	6,201,200	7,237,300
Number of acres in the Deer Management Assistance Program (DMAP)	5,617,524	5,902,708	3,111,610	1,603,934	1,663,300
Number of all certified hunting license holders and commercial alligator and trapping licensed holders	1,812,076	1,800,496	866,676	470,174	451,343
Number of Wood ducks harvested	285,704	184,748	103,036	95,764	95,764
Number of alligator nest counts in the LA coastal zone	486,352	258,580	96,000	50,699	52,480

**Objective: 5132-03** Through the Education Outreach activity, to provide hunter education services and enhanced wildlife conservation and shooting sports programs for the purpose of recruitment and retention of a safe, ethical constituency.

**Children's Budget Link** N/A

**HR Policies Beneficial to Women and Families Link** N/A

**Other Links (TANF, Tobacco Settlement, Workforce Development Commission, or Other)** N/A

Performance Indicator Name	Actuals FY 24-25	Initially Appropriated FY 25-26	Existing Standard FY 25-26	Continuation Budget FY 26-27	Executive Budget FY 26-27
[K] Number of hunter education participants	12,314	8,629	8,629	8,629	8,629



General Performance Indicators

Performance Indicator Name	Prior Year Actuals FY 2020-2021	Prior Year Actuals FY 2021-2022	Prior Year Actuals FY 2022-2023	Prior Year Actuals FY 2023-2024	Prior Year Actuals FY 2024-2025
Number of active hunter education volunteer instructors	2,788	1,492	1,649	875	563
Number of participants in archery in Louisiana schools	60,000	30,610	27,401	20,576	19,000



## 16-514-Office of Fisheries

### Agency Description

The Office of Fisheries sustainably manages and conserves living aquatic resources and their habitat, and to provide access, opportunity and knowledge of aquatic resources to Louisiana residents and other beneficiaries of these resources.

The goals of the Office of Fisheries are:

- I. To provide high quality fishery management information through effective data collection, analysis and information sharing.
- II. To be an effective, efficient steward of our renewable aquatic resources.
- III. To provide and enhance recreational fishing experience through improved access, opportunity and public awareness.
- IV. To maintain a sustainable and economically viable fisheries environment.

### Agency Budget Summary

	Prior Year Actuals FY 2024-2025	Enacted FY2025-2026	Existing Operating Budget (EOB) as of 12/01/25	Continuation FY 2026-2027	Recommended FY 2026-2027	Total Recommended Over/(Under) EOB
<b>Means of Finance:</b>						
State General Fund (Direct)	\$6,434,662	\$0	\$0	\$2,013,047	\$2,013,047	\$2,013,047
<b>State General Fund by:</b>						
Interagency Transfers	7,481,395	16,998,161	21,925,372	15,676,593	15,430,051	(6,495,321)
Fees & Self-generated	3,873,045	5,284,665	5,391,342	5,432,885	5,351,358	(39,984)
Statutory Dedications	13,152,013	25,618,060	30,669,468	24,758,659	24,078,779	(6,590,689)
Federal Funds	43,365,458	17,015,710	28,679,761	17,343,593	17,119,181	(11,560,580)
<b>Total Means of Finance</b>	<b>74,306,573</b>	<b>64,916,596</b>	<b>86,665,943</b>	<b>65,224,777</b>	<b>63,992,416</b>	<b>(22,673,527)</b>
<b>Expenditures and Request:</b>						
Fisheries	74,306,573	64,916,596	86,665,943	65,224,777	63,992,416	(22,673,527)
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>74,306,573</b>	<b>64,916,596</b>	<b>86,665,943</b>	<b>65,224,777</b>	<b>63,992,416</b>	<b>(22,673,527)</b>
<b>Authorized Positions</b>						
Classified	232	232	232	232	227	(5)
Unclassified	1	1	1	1	1	0
<b>Total Authorized Positions</b>	<b>233</b>	<b>233</b>	<b>233</b>	<b>233</b>	<b>228</b>	<b>(5)</b>
Authorized Other Charges	0	0	0	0	0	0
Positions						



## 5141-Fisheries

### Program Authorization

*Louisiana Constitution of 1974, Article IX, Section 7; R.S.56:1 et seq.; R.S. 36:601 et seq.; R.S. 30:214 et seq.; R.S. 35:3101 et seq.; R.S. 30:2451 et seq.; and R.S. 56:578*

### Program Description

The Fisheries Program sustainably manages and conserves living aquatic resources and their habitat, and provides access, opportunity and knowledge of aquatic resources to Louisiana residents and others beneficiaries of these resources.

The goals of the Fisheries Program are:

- I. To provide high quality fishery management information through effective data collection, analysis and information sharing.
- II. To be an effective, efficient steward of our renewable aquatic resources.
- III. To provide and enhance recreational fishing experience through improved access, opportunity and public awareness.
- IV. To maintain a sustainable and economically viable fisheries environment.
- V. To create a work environment in which all Fisheries staff are enabled and empowered to achieve the Office's goals and objectives.

The activities of the Fisheries Program are:

- Fisheries Management – The Office of Fisheries collects the basic ecological data needed to efficiently and effectively manage fishery resources to benefit constituent groups, i.e., commercial and recreational users, and visitors. Stock enhancement through hatchery production is used to increase benefits to users of the resources. Marine fishery sustainability is further accomplished through interstate compacts that develop joint programs to manage common resources for the benefit of all. Aquatic vegetation is managed to provide public access to aquatic resources statewide.
- Fisheries Research Extension and Development - The Research and Development Division accomplishes its goals by developing extension and outreach opportunities, developing and conducting research projects, developing stock assessments, and managing data for the Office of Fisheries. Goals are achieved through the review and approval of permits, by developing and maintaining artificial reefs, by managing public access sites, and engaging and educating the beneficiaries of Louisiana's aquatic resources.

### Program Budget Summary

	Prior Year Actuals FY 2024-2025	Enacted FY2025-2026	Existing Operating Budget (EOB) as of 12/01/25	Continuation FY 2026-2027	Recommended FY 2026-2027	Total Recommended Over/(Under) EOB
<b>Means of Finance:</b>						
State General Fund (Direct)	\$6,434,662	\$0	\$0	\$2,013,047	\$2,013,047	\$2,013,047
<b>State General Fund by:</b>						
Interagency Transfers	7,481,395	16,998,161	21,925,372	15,676,593	15,430,051	(6,495,321)
Fees & Self-generated	3,873,045	5,284,665	5,391,342	5,432,885	5,351,358	(39,984)
Statutory Dedications	13,152,013	25,618,060	30,669,468	24,758,659	24,078,779	(6,590,689)
Federal Funds	43,365,458	17,015,710	28,679,761	17,343,593	17,119,181	(11,560,580)
<b>Total Means of Finance</b>	<b>74,306,573</b>	<b>64,916,596</b>	<b>86,665,943</b>	<b>65,224,777</b>	<b>63,992,416</b>	<b>(22,673,527)</b>



## Program Budget Summary

	Prior Year Actuals FY 2024-2025	Enacted FY2025-2026	Existing Operating Budget (EOB) as of 12/01/25	Continuation FY 2026-2027	Recommended FY 2026-2027	Total Recommended Over/(Under) EOB
<b>Expenditures and Request:</b>						
Personnel Services	22,124,758	23,791,168	23,791,168	25,221,170	24,662,186	871,018
Operating Expenses	11,554,421	21,682,900	25,383,649	22,405,457	21,811,342	(3,572,307)
Professional Services	2,918,945	2,892,738	3,131,656	4,900,642	4,821,380	1,689,724
Other Charges	35,747,615	13,788,692	31,098,544	10,855,572	10,855,572	(20,242,972)
Acquisitions & Major Repairs	1,960,834	2,761,098	3,260,926	1,841,936	1,841,936	(1,418,990)
<b>Total Expenditures &amp; Request</b>	<b>74,306,573</b>	<b>64,916,596</b>	<b>86,665,943</b>	<b>65,224,777</b>	<b>63,992,416</b>	<b>(22,673,527)</b>
<b>Authorized Positions</b>						
Classified	232	232	232	232	227	(5)
Unclassified	1	1	1	1	1	0
<b>Total Authorized Positions</b>	<b>233</b>	<b>233</b>	<b>233</b>	<b>233</b>	<b>228</b>	<b>(5)</b>
Authorized Other Charges Positions	0	0	0	0	0	0

## Source of Funding

This program is funded with the following:

- Interagency Transfers derived from:
  - Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority;
  - Department of Natural Resources;
  - Department of Environmental Quality;
  - Division of Administration; and
  - La. Oil Spill Coordinators Office
- Fees and Self-generated Revenues derived from:
  - Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council
  - National Council for Air and Stream Improvement, Inc. Foundation
- Funds re-classified as Fees and Self-generated Revenues:
  - Aquatic Plant Control Dedicated Fund Account (R.S. 56:10.1)
  - Oyster Sanitation Dedicated Fund Account (R.S. 40:5.10)
- Statutory Dedications from the following funds:
  - Artificial Reef Development fund (R.S. 56:639.8)
  - Charter Boat Fishing Fund (R.S. 56:10(B)(1)(f))
  - Conservation Fund (R.S. 56:10(E))
  - Oyster Development Fund (R.S. 56:449)
  - Saltwater Fish Research and Conservation Fund (R.S. 56:10(B)(1)(g))
  - Shrimp Marketing and Promotion Account (R.S. 56:10(B)(1)(b)(i); 56:305.G)
  - Crab Development, Management, and Derelict Crab Trap Removal Account (R.S. 56:10(B)(1)(e))



- Shrimp Development and Management Account (R.S. 56:10(B)(1)(b)(ii))
- Oyster Resource Management Account (R.S. 56:10(B)(4)(a))
- Federal Funds derived from:
  - US Fish & Wildlife Sport Fish Restoration;
  - National Marine Fish Environmental Perturbation;
  - US Fish & Wildlife Service Stock Assessment of Finfish;
  - National Marine Fish Service;
  - National Marine Fish Gulf State Marine Fisheries Commission;
  - Gulf of Mexico Fish Management;
  - Coastal Wetlands Planning & Protection;
  - Gulf States Marine Fish Commission;
  - National Fish & Wildlife Foundation;
  - Environmental Protection Agency Coastal Assessment;
  - US Fish & Wildlife Sport Fish Restoration;
  - US Department of Interior Aquatic Nuisance Species Management; and
  - US Department of Interior Big River Inventory.

Per R.S. 39:36B.(8), see table below for a listing of each statutorily dedicated fund.

### Adjustments from Existing Operating Budget

General Fund	Total Amount	Table of Organization	Description
0	86,665,943	233	Existing Operating Budget as of 12/01/2025
<b>Statewide Adjustments</b>			
\$0	\$1,908,174	0	Acquisitions & Major Repairs
\$0	\$(227,774)	0	Attrition Adjustment
\$0	\$2,108	0	Civil Service Fees
\$0	\$29,082	0	Civil Service Training Series
\$0	\$104,133	0	Group Insurance Rate Adjustment for Active Employees
\$0	\$88,148	0	Group Insurance Rate Adjustment for Retirees
\$0	\$593,167	0	Market Rate Classified
\$0	\$(2,761,098)	0	Non-Recurring Acquisitions & Major Repairs
\$0	\$(21,749,347)	0	Non-recurring Carryforwards
\$0	\$(3,628)	0	Office of State Procurement
\$0	\$90,790	0	Office of Technology Services (OTS)
\$0	\$(331,210)	(5)	Personnel Reductions
\$0	\$554,825	0	Related Benefits Base Adjustment
\$0	\$(212,944)	0	Retirement Rate Adjustment
\$0	\$49,119	0	Risk Management
\$0	\$273,591	0	Salary Base Adjustment
\$0	\$725	0	UPS Fees
0	(21,592,139)	(5)	<b>Total Statewide</b>

### Non-Statewide Adjustments

\$0	\$150,000	0	Annualizes Fees and Self-generated Revenues from the Science and Nature Center at Port Wonder for operating services shared with The Children's Museum of Southwest Louisiana.
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## Adjustments from Existing Operating Budget

General Fund	Total Amount	Table of Organization	Description
\$0	\$321,625	0	Increases Federal Funds to support ongoing research into invasive carp species, including the acquisition of specialized software services to analyze ecological impacts and inform mitigation strategies.
\$0	\$25,190	0	Increases Statutory Dedications out of the Oyster Development Fund (\$8,642) and Crab Development, Management and Derelict Crab Trap Removal Account (\$16,548) for oyster and crab outreach support and advertising.
\$2,013,047	\$0	0	Means of finance substitution increasing State General Fund (Direct) and decreasing Statutory Dedications out of the Conservation Fund for personal services.
\$0	\$(1,574,605)	0	Non-recurs Interagency Transfers from the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA) for the completion of the Oyster Strategic Planning Support project.
\$0	\$(3,598)	0	Realigns Fees and Self-generated Revenues out of the Oyster Sanitation Dedication Fund Account to projected expenditures and based on the most recent Revenue Estimating Conference (REC) forecast.
<b>2,013,047</b>	<b>(1,081,388)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>Total Non-Statewide</b>
<b>2,013,047</b>	<b>63,992,416</b>	<b>228</b>	<b>Total Recommended</b>

## Fees & Self-generated

Fund	Prior Year Actuals FY 2024-2025	Enacted FY2025-2026	Existing Operating Budget (EOB) as of 12/01/25	Continuation FY 2026-2027	Recommended FY 2026-2027	Total Recommended Over/(Under) EOB
Fees & Self-generated Revenues	150,000	180,000	180,000	364,093	360,531	180,531
Oyster Sanitation Dedicated Fund Account	96,715	104,665	104,665	109,367	109,367	4,702
Aquatic Plant Control Dedicated Fund Account	3,626,330	5,000,000	5,106,677	4,959,425	4,881,460	(225,217)

## Statutory Dedications

Fund	Prior Year Actuals FY 2024-2025	Enacted FY2025-2026	Existing Operating Budget (EOB) as of 12/01/25	Continuation FY 2026-2027	Recommended FY 2026-2027	Total Recommended Over/(Under) EOB
Louisiana Rescue Plan Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0
Conservation Fund	3,476,540	12,448,573	12,448,573	11,502,153	10,904,928	(1,543,645)
Artificial Reef Development Fund	4,389,099	7,079,955	7,587,695	7,237,273	7,193,279	(394,416)
Oyster Development Fund	104,164	149,989	149,989	160,463	158,631	8,642
Shrimp Marketing and Promotion Account	161,858	220,000	220,000	221,919	220,000	0
Crab Development, Management & Derelict Crab Trap Removal	43,874	90,119	90,119	107,364	106,667	16,548
Saltwater Fish Research and Conservation Fund	984,834	1,300,000	1,300,000	1,306,338	1,300,000	0
Shrimp Development and Management Account	119,000	180,000	180,000	180,000	180,000	0
Oyster Resource Management Account	3,157,682	3,332,974	7,876,642	3,226,699	3,198,824	(4,677,818)
Charter Boat Fishing Escrow Account	714,963	816,450	816,450	816,450	816,450	0





## Professional Services

Amount	Description
\$175,103	Crab sustainability certification contract
\$511,500	Evaluating and reporting oyster leases and spat on shell research
\$1,501,190	Reef Survey Services; Recycled Oyster Shell Services
\$35,000	Shrimp Task Force Marketing and Advertising
\$36,205	Oyster Task Force Marketing and Advertising
\$1,920,000	Deepwater Oil Spill NRDA Restoration projects
\$642,382	Commercial Equipment Reimbursement Grant Program - grant program disbursement.
<b>\$4,821,380</b>	<b>TOTAL PROFESSIONAL SERVICES</b>

## Other Charges

Amount	Description
	<b>Other Charges:</b>
\$350,000	Data collection support for recreational landings survey of saltwater finfish (LA CREEL)
\$4,000	Derelict crab trap cleanup
\$289,930	Genetic composition of Louisiana's largemouth bass stocks; Aquatic Nuisance project for Asian Carp; biological control of common and giant salvinia
\$557,296	Seafood Sustainability; Inshore Artificial Reefs; Red Snapper Population Estimate; Education and outreach support for the Louisiana fisheries forward program
\$629,767	Synthesis of Growth & Mortality Data in support of an oyster shell budget model. Hatchery assistance in the production of oyster larvae and seed for oyster restoration and alt culture
\$518,999	Importation, mass rearing, and release of cold tolerant population of the salvinia weevil; biological control of giant salvinia
\$4,070,416	Various contracts to assist with Fisheries projects including Sportfish Restoration projects, Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) projects, and university fisheries research projects.
\$2,118,196	Grand Isle Oyster Hatchery and oyster remodeling
<b>\$8,538,604</b>	<b>SUB-TOTAL OTHER CHARGES</b>
	<b>Interagency Transfers:</b>
\$99,754	Civil Service Fees
\$164,077	Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism - Seafood Promotion and Marketing
\$102,603	Louisiana Property Assistance Agency - Vehicle GPS
\$843,579	Office of Risk Management (ORM) Fees
\$21,275	Office of State Procurement (OSP) Fees
\$957,711	Office of Technology Services (OTS) Fees
\$50,000	Office of Technology Services (OTS) Fees - Software for ongoing invasive carp projects
\$66,238	Office of Technology Services (OTS) Fees - Replacement of IT Acquisitions
\$11,731	Uniform Payroll System (UPS) Fees
<b>\$2,316,968</b>	<b>SUB-TOTAL INTERAGENCY TRANSFERS</b>
<b>\$10,855,572</b>	<b>TOTAL OTHER CHARGES</b>

## Acquisitions and Major Repairs

Amount	Description
\$1,351,236	Replacement vehicles, trailers, boats and marine equipment, and buoys
\$319,000	Land management and science equipment
\$171,700	Brake system replacement on vessel trailers, vessel bottom paint jobs for renovations, Yamaha lower unit, and trailer repairs
<b>\$1,841,936</b>	<b>TOTAL ACQUISITIONS AND MAJOR REPAIRS</b>



**Objective: 5141-01** The Office of Fisheries collects the basic ecological data needed to efficiently and effectively manage fishery resources to benefit constituent groups, i.e., commercial and recreational users and visitors. Marine fishery sustainability is further accomplished through interstate compacts that develop joint programs to manage common resources for the benefit of all.

**Children's Budget Link** N/A

**HR Policies Beneficial to Women and Families Link** N/A

**Other Links (TANF, Tobacco Settlement, Workforce Development Commission, or Other)** N/A

Performance Indicator Name	Actuals FY 24-25	Initially Appropriated FY 25-26	Existing Standard FY 25-26	Continuation Budget FY 26-27	Executive Budget FY 26-27
[K] Percentage of state mandated stock assessments completed annually	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
[K] Number of acres treated to control undesirable aquatic vegetation	28,020	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000

## General Performance Indicators

Performance Indicator Name	Prior Year Actuals FY 2020-2021	Prior Year Actuals FY 2021-2022	Prior Year Actuals FY 2022-2023	Prior Year Actuals FY 2023-2024	Prior Year Actuals FY 2024-2025
National ranking in commercial marine shellfish landings	1	2	2	2	2
National ranking in commercial marine finfish landings	3	3	2	2	2
National ranking in recreational marine finfishing (number of days fished)	2	2	8	17	17
Number of fish stocked	5,643,834	12,936,668	4,154,460	5,174,494	5,219,797
Number of commercial fishing trips	123,890	156,924	119,582	136,491	138,560
Number of licensed commercial fishers	11,259	8,909	8,149	8,780	8,383
Number of licensed saltwater recreational fishers	519,342	486,428	477,205	453,065	480,748
Number of Scheduled saltwater finfish samples	2,961	2,863	2,931	2,523	2,519
Number of Scheduled freshwater finfish samples	1,640	1,532	1,541	1,666	1,636
Number of Scheduled shellfish samples	2,252	1,948	2,206	2,284	2,279
Number of Scheduled oyster samples	2,664	2,655	2,653	2,630	2,738
Number of Certified Fishing Licenses	801,672	775,308	736,070	722,632	690,992
Number of boating or fishing access sites initiated annually	Not Available%	2%	1%	1%	1%

**Objective: 5141-02** To foster a connection between fisheries resources and the public through outreach, education, and access to promote public interest and awareness of and provide access to aquatic resources.

**Children's Budget Link** N/A

**HR Policies Beneficial to Women and Families Link** N/A

**Other Links (TANF, Tobacco Settlement, Workforce Development Commission, or Other)** N/A

Performance Indicator Name	Actuals FY 24-25	Initially Appropriated FY 25-26	Existing Standard FY 25-26	Continuation Budget FY 26-27	Executive Budget FY 26-27
[K] Number of State managed fisheries closed due to overharvesting	0	0	0	0	0
[K] Number of pounds of fish stocked through the Community Fishing Program	41,100	47,600	47,600	47,600	47,600
[K] Number of individuals reached at events through direct communications	19,993	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000

