



# Louisiana Senate Finance Committee



## FY26 Executive Budget

### 16 – Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

April 2025

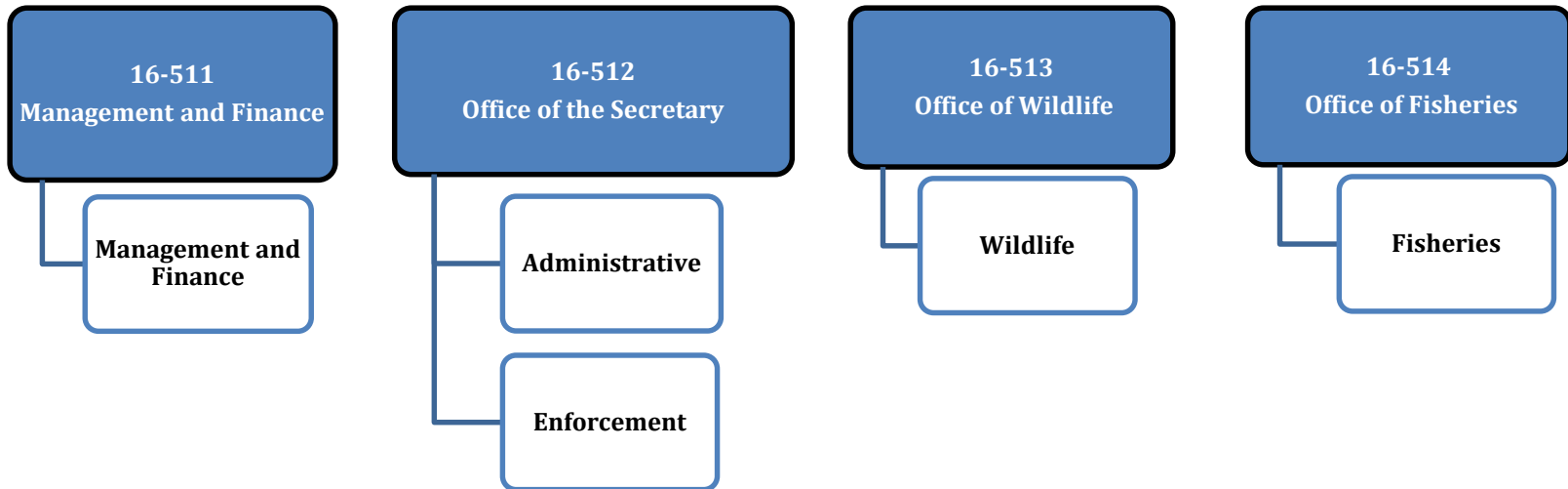
*Senator Cameron Henry, President*  
*Senator Glen Womack, Chairman*



# FY26 Recommended Budget

## Schedule 16 — Wildlife and Fisheries Agencies

Departmental mission — “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; and 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.”





# Wildlife and Fisheries FY26 Agency Descriptions

## 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.

## Administrative

Provides executive leadership and legal support to all department programs and staff.

## Enforcement

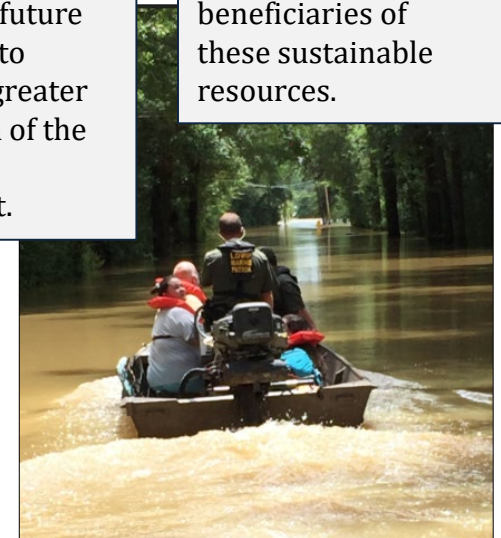
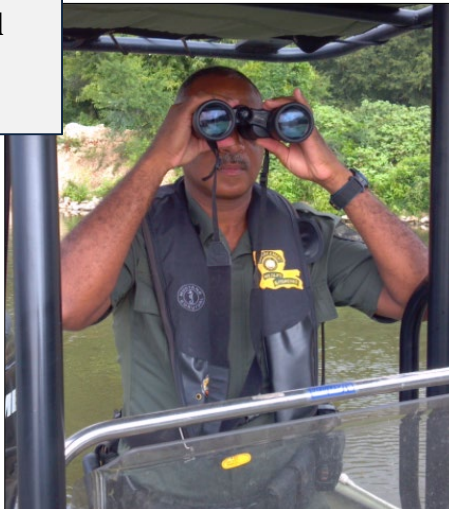
Establishes and maintains compliance through the execution and enforcement of laws, rules and regulations of the state relative to the management, conservation and protection of renewable natural wildlife and fisheries resources and relative to providing public safety on the states waterways and lands for the continued use and enjoyment by current and future generations.

## Wildlife

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.

## Fisheries

Manages living aquatic resources and their habitat, gives fishery industry support, and provides access, opportunity and understanding of the Louisiana aquatic resources to citizens and other beneficiaries of these sustainable resources.





# Wildlife and Fisheries

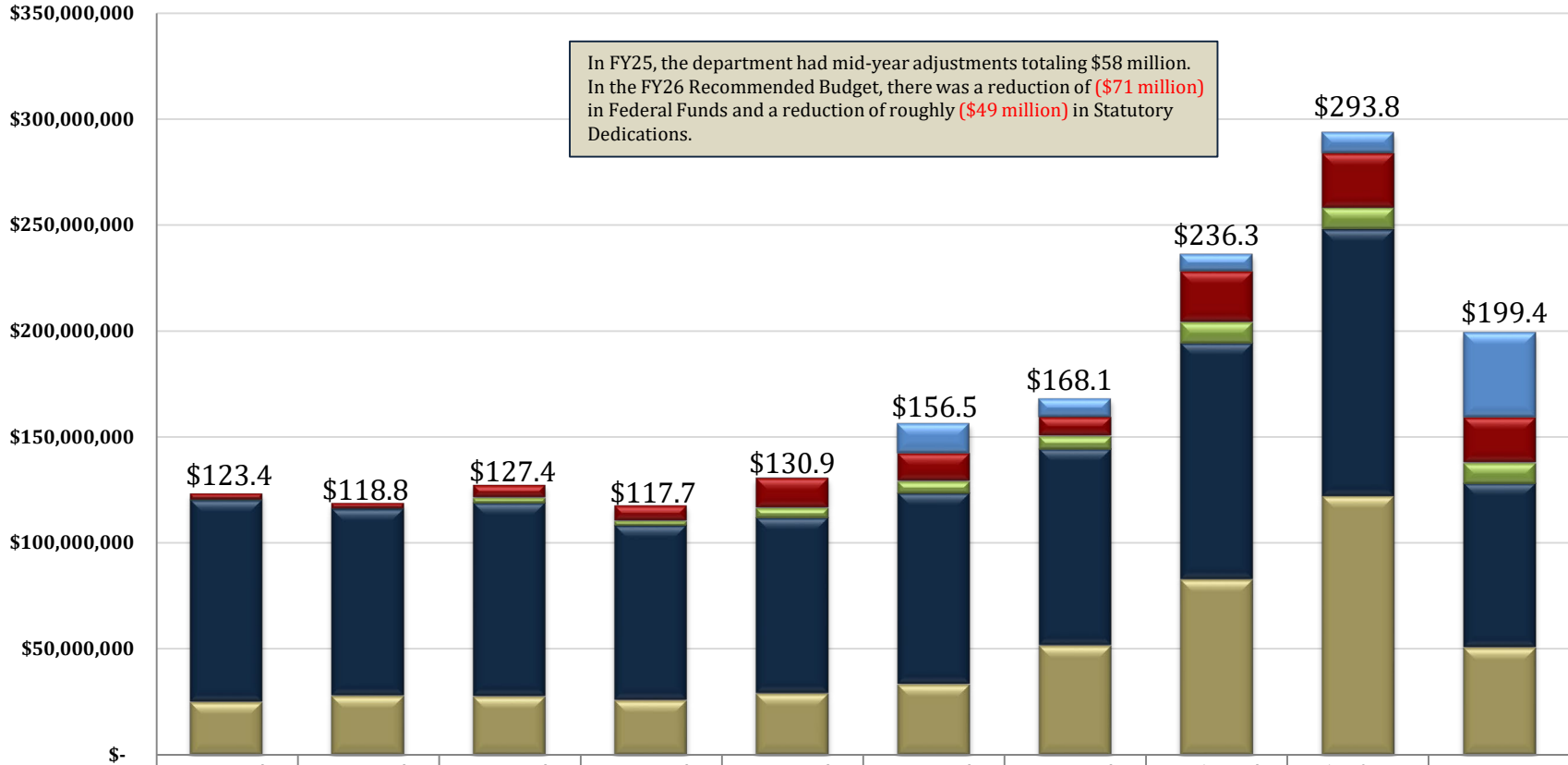
## Changes in Funding since FY18

### Total Budget by Fiscal Year and Means of Finance (in \$ millions)

Change from FY18 to FY26 is +61.6%. (Actual to Recommended)

Change from FY18 to FY24 is +36.2%. (Actual to Actual)

In FY25, the department had mid-year adjustments totaling \$58 million. In the FY26 Recommended Budget, there was a reduction of (\$71 million) in Federal Funds and a reduction of roughly (\$49 million) in Statutory Dedications.



	FY18 Actual	FY19 Actual	FY20 Actual	FY21 Actual	FY22 Actual	FY23 Actual	FY24 Actual	FY25 Enacted	FY25 as of 12-1-24	FY26 Rec.
SGF	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$155,711	\$14,279,577	\$8,716,442	\$8,291,435	\$10,136,928	\$40,101,670
IAT	\$2,956,114	\$2,541,656	\$5,933,322	\$7,015,619	\$13,958,440	\$12,855,100	\$8,787,571	\$23,785,139	\$25,720,722	\$21,325,933
FSGR	\$113,895	\$142,938	\$2,574,230	\$2,429,526	\$4,986,053	\$5,956,762	\$6,362,282	\$10,076,689	\$10,275,636	\$9,808,472
STAT DED	\$95,216,381	\$88,119,109	\$91,160,365	\$82,364,070	\$82,755,842	\$89,976,914	\$92,494,448	\$111,468,985	\$125,914,273	\$77,431,286
FED	\$25,088,448	\$28,002,114	\$27,742,076	\$25,881,777	\$29,063,411	\$33,449,969	\$51,723,789	\$82,636,002	\$121,717,829	\$50,685,000





# Significant Budget Adjustments Recommended for FY26

State General Fund (Direct)	Interagency Transfers	Fees and Self-generated Revenues	Statutory Dedications	Federal Funds	Total	T.O.	Adjustment
\$10,136,928	\$25,720,722	\$10,275,636	\$125,914,273	\$121,717,829	\$293,765,388	786	<b>FY25 Existing Operating Budget as of 12-1-24</b>
\$0	\$441,855	\$292,240	\$6,725,777	\$6,722,598	\$14,182,470	0	Acquisitions & Major Repairs
\$0	\$0	\$0	(\$97,845)	\$0	(\$97,845)	0	Administrative Law Judges
\$0	\$0	\$0	(\$1,749,922)	\$0	(\$1,749,922)	0	Attrition Adjustment
\$0	\$0	\$0	\$32,771	\$0	\$32,771	0	Civil Service Fees
\$0	\$0	\$0	\$256,267	\$0	\$256,267	0	Civil Service Training Series
\$0	\$0	\$0	\$262,070	\$0	\$262,070	0	Group Insurance Rate Adjustment for Active Employees
\$0	\$0	\$0	\$218,689	\$0	\$218,689	0	Group Insurance Rate Adjustment for Retirees
\$0	\$0	\$0	(\$12,856)	\$0	(\$12,856)	0	Legislative Auditor Fees
\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,633,325	\$0	\$1,633,325	0	Market Rate Classified
(\$250,000)	(\$448,300)	(\$500,807)	(\$9,580,414)	(\$9,725,778)	(\$20,505,299)	0	Non-recurring Acquisitions & Major Repairs
(\$1,845,493)	(\$1,935,583)	(\$198,947)	(\$14,445,288)	(\$39,081,827)	(\$57,507,138)	0	Non-recurring Carryforwards
\$0	\$0	\$0	(\$116,765)	\$0	(\$116,765)	0	Office of State Procurement
\$0	\$0	\$0	(\$49,964)	\$0	(\$49,964)	0	Office of Technology Services (OTS)
\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,171,644	\$0	\$2,171,644	0	Related Benefits Base Adjustment
\$0	\$0	\$0	(\$676,259)	\$0	(\$676,259)	0	Retirement Rate Adjustment
\$0	\$0	\$0	\$182,578	\$0	\$182,578	0	Risk Management
\$0	\$0	\$0	\$877,259	\$0	\$877,259	0	Salary Base Adjustment
\$0	\$0	\$0	\$786	\$0	\$786	0	State Treasury Fees
\$0	\$0	\$0	(\$4,140)	\$0	(\$4,140)	0	UPS Fees
(\$2,095,493)	(\$1,942,028)	(\$407,514)	(\$14,372,287)	(\$42,085,007)	(\$60,902,329)	0	<b>Total Statewide Adjustments</b>
\$33,560,235	\$0	(\$100,000)	(\$33,460,235)	\$0	\$0	0	Total Means of Financing Substitution Adjustments
(\$1,500,000)	(\$291,895)	(\$15,320)	(\$1,102,701)	(\$28,947,822)	(\$31,857,738)	0	Total Non-recurring Other Adjustments
\$0	(\$2,160,866)	\$55,670	\$452,236	\$0	(\$1,652,960)	0	Total Other Adjustments
\$40,101,670	\$21,325,933	\$9,808,472	\$77,431,286	\$50,685,000	\$199,352,361	786	<b>Total FY26 Recommended Budget</b>
\$29,964,742	(\$4,394,789)	(\$467,164)	(\$48,482,987)	(\$71,032,829)	(\$94,413,027)	0	Total Adjustments (Statewide and Agency-Specific)



# Significant Budget Adjustments Recommended for FY26

## Non-Recurring Other Adjustments

State General Fund (Direct)	Interagency Transfers	Fees and Self-generated Revenues	Statutory Dedications	Federal Funds	Total	T.O.	Adjustment
\$0	(\$272,395)	\$0	\$0	\$0	(\$272,395)	0	Non-recurs funding due to completing the Dewey Wills Wildlife Management Area ATV Trail.
\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	(\$28,923,656)	(\$28,923,656)	0	Non-recurs funding for completed projects from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Flood Disaster Grant.
(\$1,500,000)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	(\$1,500,000)	0	Non-recurs funding for legal services for the degradation of coastal properties.
\$0	\$0	(\$15,320)	(\$72,446)	(\$24,166)	(\$111,932)	0	Non-recurs funding for one-time IT Equipment purchases.
\$0	\$0	\$0	(\$1,000,000)	\$0	(\$1,000,000)	0	Non-recurs funding in Statutory Dedications out of the Louisiana Outdoors Forever Fund for outdoor conservation projects within the state.
\$0	(\$19,500)	\$0	\$0	\$0	(\$19,500)	0	Non-recurs Interagency Transfers budget authority with the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA) - Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) for personal services related to BP Oil Spill expenses.
\$0	\$0	\$0	(\$30,255)	\$0	(\$30,255)	0	Non-recurs Statutory Dedications out of the Conservation Fund for one-time IT acquisitions.
(\$1,500,000)	(\$291,895)	(\$15,320)	(\$1,102,701)	(\$28,947,822)	(\$31,857,738)	0	<b>Total Non-Recurring Other Adjustments</b>

## Means of Financing Substitutions

State General Fund (Direct)	Interagency Transfers	Fees and Self-generated Revenues	Statutory Dedications	Federal Funds	Total	T.O.	Adjustment
\$0	\$0	(\$100,000)	\$100,000	\$0	\$0	0	Means of finance substitution decreases Fees and Self-generated Revenues and increases Statutory Dedications out of the Conservation Fund due to under collections from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Award.
\$7,063,063	\$0	\$0	(\$7,063,063)	\$0	\$0	0	Means of finance substitution increases State General Fund (Direct) and decreases Statutory Dedications out of the Conservation Fund for operations.
\$26,497,172	\$0	\$0	(\$26,497,172)	\$0	\$0	0	Means of finance substitution increases State General Fund (Direct) and decreases Statutory Dedications out of the Conservation Fund for personal services and operations.
\$0	\$0	\$0	(\$33,460,235)	\$0	\$0	0	<b>Total Means of Financing Substitutions Adjustments</b>



# Significant Budget Adjustments Recommended for FY26

## Other Adjustments

State General Fund (Direct)	Interagency Transfers	Fees and Self-generated Revenues	Statutory Dedications	Federal Funds	Total	T.O.	Adjustment
\$0	(\$2,160,866)	\$0	\$0	\$0	(\$2,160,866)	0	Aligns funding with the actual expenditures from FY 2024-2025.
\$0	\$0	(\$124,330)	\$0	\$0	(\$124,330)	0	Aligns Statutory Dedications out of the Aquatic Plant Control Dedicated Fund Account with actual expenditures from FY 2024-2025 and projected needs for FY 2025-2026.
\$0	\$0	\$0	\$400,641	\$0	\$400,641	0	Aligns Statutory Dedications out of the Charter Boat Fishing Fund to ensure that 10% of the total revenue from charter boat fishing guide licenses is allocated to the Charter Boat Association as required by R.S. 302.9 (G).
\$0	\$0	\$0	(\$796,043)	\$0	(\$796,043)	0	Aligns Statutory Dedications out of the Conservation Fund with actual expenditures from FY 2024-2025 and projected needs for FY 2025-2026.
\$0	\$0	\$0	(\$9,013)	\$0	(\$9,013)	0	Aligns Statutory Dedications out of the Conservation Quail Account with actual expenditures from FY 2024-2025 and projected needs for FY 2025-2026.
\$0	\$0	\$0	(\$276,829)	\$0	(\$276,829)	0	Aligns Statutory Dedications out of the Crab Development, Management and Derelict Crab Trap Removal Account with actual expenditures from FY 2024-2025 and projected needs for FY 2025-2026.
\$0	\$0	\$0	\$500,000	\$0	\$500,000	0	Aligns Statutory Dedications out of the Oyster Resource Management Account with actual expenditures from FY 2024-2025 and projected needs for FY 2025-2026.
\$0	\$0	\$0	(\$109,891)	\$0	(\$109,891)	0	Aligns Statutory Dedications out of the Saltwater Fish Research and Conservation Fund with actual expenditures from FY 2024-2025 and projected needs for FY 2025-2026.
\$0	\$0	\$0	(\$331)	\$0	(\$331)	0	Aligns Statutory Dedications out of the Shrimp Marketing and Promotion Account with actual expenditures from FY 2024-2025 and projected needs for FY 2025-2026.
\$0	\$0	\$0	(\$63,000)	\$0	(\$63,000)	0	Aligns Statutory Dedications out of the Waterfowl Account with funds encumbered in the White Lake Shoreline Protection Project.
\$0	\$0	\$130,000	\$0	\$0	\$130,000	0	Provides funding to fulfill the responsibilities of operating and maintaining the Lake Charles Nature and Science Center at Port Wonder.
\$0	\$0	\$50,000	\$0	\$0	\$50,000	0	Provides overtime funding to secure waterways properly at the request of private entities.
\$0	\$0	\$0	\$12,100	\$0	\$12,100	0	Provides Statutory Dedications out of the Conservation Fund for an ongoing software maintenance contract to consult on the setup of the indirect cost recoupment process.
\$0	\$0	\$0	\$516,847	\$0	\$516,847	0	Provides Statutory Dedications out of the Conservation Fund for increased fuel costs and the replacement of fifty-seven (57) body armor for officers.
\$0	\$0	\$0	\$233,367	\$0	\$233,367	0	Provides Statutory Dedications out of the Conservation Fund in order to maintain fund balances and avoid overspending in the Crab Development Management and Derelict Crab Trap Removal Account and the Shrimp Development and Management Account.
\$0	\$0	\$0	\$150,000	\$0	\$150,000	0	Provides Statutory Dedications out of the Conservation Fund to maintain Waddill training facility buildings (Classroom, Kitchen, and Natatorium).
\$0	\$0	\$0	\$500,000	\$0	\$500,000	0	Provides Statutory Dedications out of the White Lake Property Fund to conduct the necessary maintenance on the levee system at the White Lake Conservation Area.
\$0	\$0	\$0	(\$500,000)	\$0	(\$500,000)	0	Reduces Statutory Dedications out of the Artificial Reef Development Fund due to the completion of the Gulf States Menhaden contract.
\$0	\$0	\$0	(\$37,130)	\$0	(\$37,130)	0	Reduces Statutory Dedications out of the Conservation Fund for reduced travel anticipated in FY 2025-2026.
\$0	\$0	\$0	(\$57,952)	\$0	(\$57,952)	0	Reduces Statutory Dedications out of the Conservation Fund in the Enforcement Division for equipment purchases that are being financed instead of purchased outright.
\$0	\$0	\$0	(\$10,530)	\$0	(\$10,530)	0	Reduces Statutory Dedications out of the Conservation Fund to align with projected needs in FY 2025-2026.
\$0	(\$2,160,866)	\$55,670	\$452,236	\$0	(\$1,652,960)	0	<b>Total Other Adjustments</b>

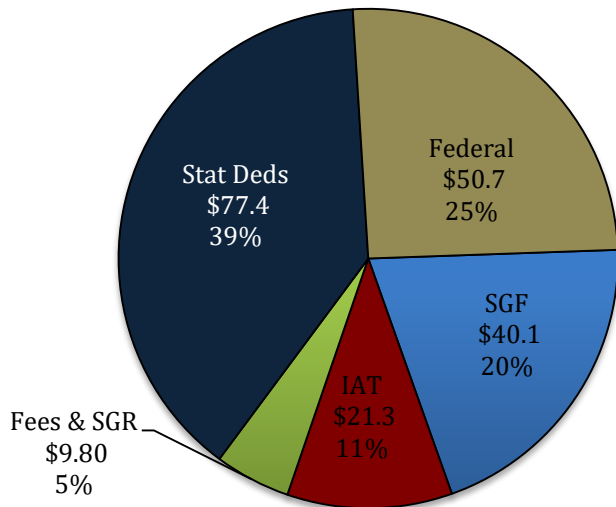


# Wildlife and Fisheries

## FY26 Recommended Means of Finance

Total Funding	FY24 Actual	FY25 Enacted	FY25 EOB as of 12-1-24	FY26 Recommended	Difference FY26 Recommended vs. FY25 EOB as of 12-1-24
Management and Finance	\$ 18,728,081	\$ 22,130,989	\$ 30,163,977	\$ 20,832,469	\$ (9,331,508)
Secretary	\$ 47,159,386	\$ 48,672,802	\$ 49,470,383	\$ 49,812,121	\$ 341,738
Wildlife	\$ 47,288,522	\$ 71,348,386	\$ 76,841,443	\$ 63,791,175	\$ (13,050,268)
Fisheries	\$ 54,908,544	\$ 94,106,073	\$ 137,289,585	\$ 64,916,596	\$ (72,372,989)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 168,084,533</b>	<b>\$ 236,258,250</b>	<b>\$ 293,765,388</b>	<b>\$ 199,352,361</b>	<b>\$ (94,413,027)</b>
Total Positions	784	786	786	786	0

**FY26 Recommended  
Total Means of Finance  
(In Millions)**



**Total \$199.4 m.**

### Non-SGF Sources of Funding:

Statutory Dedications and Federal Funds are the two primary sources of revenue.

**Statutory Dedications**, which make up 39 percent of the department's total funding, are derived from severance taxes, royalties on land and minerals, leases, licenses, fees, etc., and deposited into the **Conservation Fund**, which is the largest of the twenty-five statutorily dedicated funds of which the department receives funding.

**Federal Funds** are derived from the U.S. Department of Commerce, U.S. Department of Interior, U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Fish and Wildlife and Sport Fish and Wildlife Restoration, and U.S. Homeland Security.





# Wildlife and Fisheries Dedicated Funds

Dedicated Funds	Source of Funding	FY24 Actual	FY25 EOB	FY26 Recommended
Artificial Reef Development Fund	Fees and donations	\$3,493,881	\$8,112,163	\$7,079,955
Charter Boat Fishing Fund	Fees	\$742,122	\$415,809	\$816,450
Conservation - Waterfowl Account	Fees for the sale of the Ducks Unlimited Plate	\$0	\$238,000	\$0
Conservation Fund	Fees, donations, grants, mineral royalties, leases	\$73,541,212	\$82,619,692	\$49,934,303
Conservation of the Black Bear Account	Fees for the sale of the Louisiana Black Bear Plate	\$3,917	\$208,500	\$208,500
Conservation - Quail Account	Fees for the sale of the Quail Forever Plate	\$6,280	\$28,000	\$18,987
Conservation - White Tail Deer Account	Fees for the sale of the White Tail Deer Plate	\$178	\$15,700	\$15,700
Crab Dev Mgt and Derelict Crab Trap Removal Account	Fees	\$253,965	\$492,148	\$203,119
LA Outdoors Forever Fund	Appropriations, public or private grants, gifts, or donations	\$2,299,288	\$8,664,502	\$0
Litter Abatement and Education Account	Fees, fines, penalties from littering violations	\$69,230	\$99,800	\$99,800
LA Fur Public Education & Marketing Fund	Licensing fees	\$50,309	\$65,750	\$61,800
LA Wild Turkey Stamp Fund	Fees from the sale of the LA Wild Turkey Stamp	\$92	\$30,100	\$30,100
Marsh Island Operating Fund	Royalties from leases	\$43,380	\$167,808	\$193,808
MC Davis Conservation Fund	Fees and donations	\$0	\$5,400	\$10,775
Natural Heritage Account	Fees from the sale of Wild Louisiana Stamps	\$19,346	\$0	\$0
Oil Spill Contingency Fund	Settlements and judgements related to oil spill clean-up	\$167,836	\$306,809	\$323,659
Oyster Development Fund	Fees from oyster tag sales	\$133,420	\$149,989	\$149,989
Oyster Resource Management Account	From the sale of commercial oyster gear licenses and the sale of oyster cargo vessel permits	\$2,018,285	\$8,038,749	\$3,594,974



# Wildlife and Fisheries Dedicated Funds

LA Recue Plan Fund	Surcharge on discharges	\$1,546,177	\$0	\$0
Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge & Game Preserve Fund	Royalties from leases	\$3,659,281	\$6,665,069	\$3,880,279
Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge Trust & Protect Fund	Royalties from leases	\$712,365	\$1,760,809	\$2,863,883
Russell Sage Special Fund #2	Interest and income from investments and transfers	\$1,004,750	\$2,500,000	\$2,500,000
Saltwater Fish Research & Conservation Fund	Fees on saltwater fishing licenses	\$1,078,166	\$1,409,891	\$1,300,000
Scenic Rivers Fund	Donations, penalties and fees	\$24	\$0	\$0
Seafood Promotion & Marketing Fund	Licensing and gear fees	\$17,819	\$23,209	\$23,209
Shrimp Development & Management Account	Shrimp gear fees	\$189,900	\$189,900	\$250,900
Shrimp Marketing & Promotion Account	Fees	\$62,100	\$231,998	\$220,000
White Lake Property Fund	Fees, revenues from leases and royalty payments	\$873,855	\$1,483,815	\$1,920,500
Wildlife Habitat & Natural Heritage Trust	Fees, public and private donations, grants	\$507,269	\$1,990,663	\$1,730,596
<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>\$92,494,447</b>	<b>\$125,914,273</b>	<b>\$77,431,286</b>



# Wildlife and Fisheries Conservation Fund

Below is the expenditure history for the Conservation Fund from FY18 through the FY26 Recommended Budget:

Conservation Fund Expenditure History								
FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25 EOB	FY26 Recommended
\$79,987,646	\$79,392,926	\$70,982,421	\$72,470,907	\$66,923,102	\$74,815,283	\$73,541,212	\$82,619,692	\$49,934,303

The Wildlife and Fisheries Conservation Fund (La. Const. Art. VII, Section 10-A) is a constitutionally protected fund and receives its revenues from fees, licenses, permits, and royalties. It provides for the general operations of the department.

The Conservation Fund is the largest of the twenty-five dedicated funds from which the department receives funding.

The fund is used solely for the programs and purposes of conservation, protection, preservation, management, and replenishment of the state's natural resources and wildlife, including use for land acquisition or federal matching fund programs which promote such purposes, and for the operation and administration of the Department and the Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, or their successors.

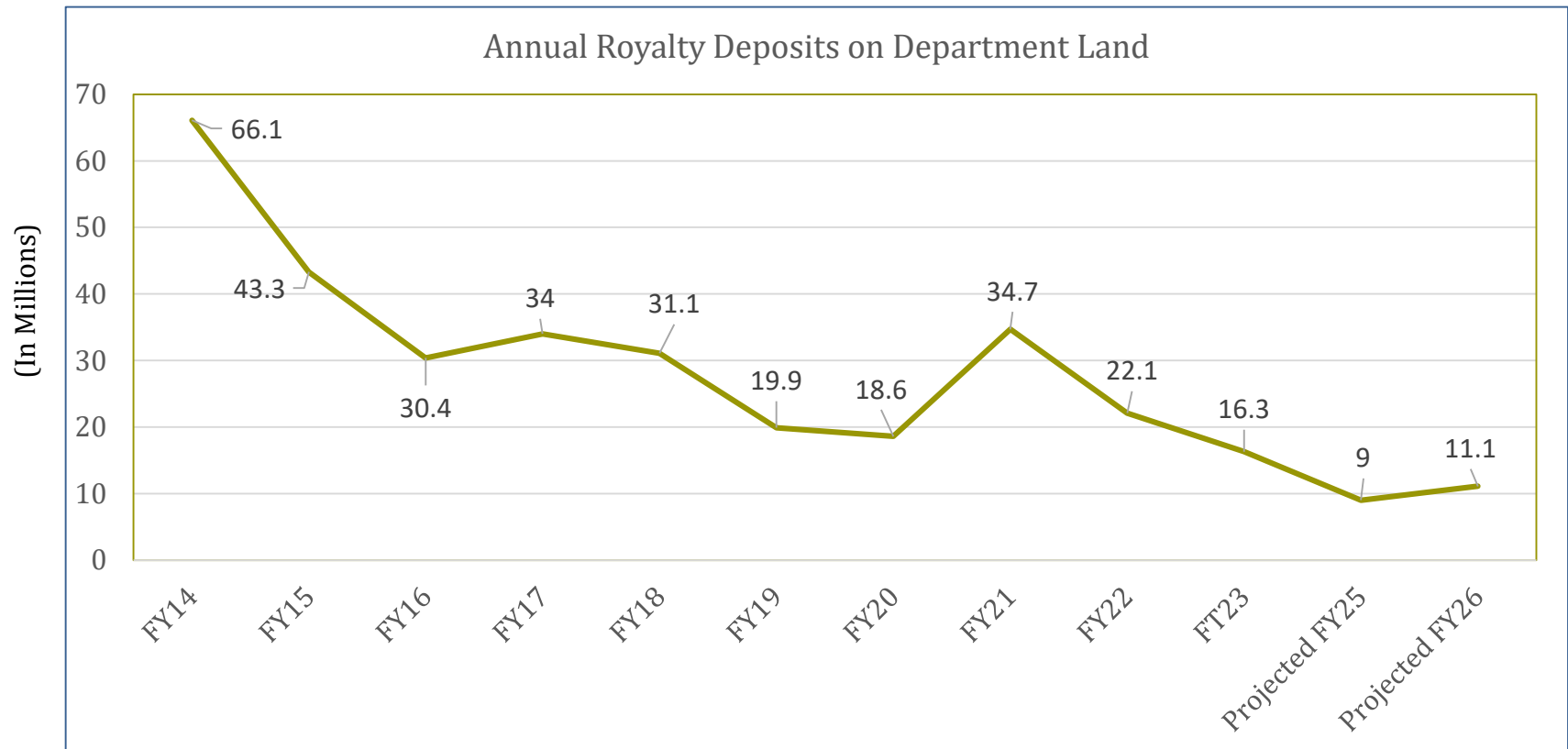
Act 114 of the 2021 R.S. transferred \$16,963,667 from the State General Fund (Direct) into the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Conservation Fund. As a result of Act 356 of the 2021 R.S., the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries implemented a new fee structure for hunting and fishing licenses and boat registrations. The new fee structure streamlined the old process, reducing the number of licenses required for hunters and anglers. These changes provided the agency with a more stable source of revenue.

There is a decrease of **(\$32.7 Million)** in the FY26 Recommended Budget from the FY25 Existing Operating Budget.



# Wildlife and Fisheries Conservation Fund

The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) conservation fund is experiencing a revenue shortfall due to lower royalties year after year. Within the last ten years, royalties on land have decreased by 77.7%. Mineral revenue decreased by 51% over the past 10 years. Despite LDWF's expenditures rising a mere 8% within the last 10 years (compared to the CPI inflation of 32%), expenditures have exceeded revenue since FY16. The conservation fund balance, which has kept LDWF afloat over the years, is now depleted.





# Categorical Expenditures

## Examples of Categories

**Departments expend funding in the five major categories listed below.**

### **Personal Services**

- Salaries – Regular, overtime, and termination pay for Classified and Unclassified personnel.
- Other Compensation – Wages, student labor, compensation for board members and/or board of trustees, evening instruction, university instructors, etc.
- Related Benefits – Retirement contributions, post-retirement contributions/benefits, FICA tax, Medicare tax, group insurance contributions, compensated absences, other related benefits, taxable fringe benefits, etc.

### **Total Operating Expenses**

- Travel – In-state and Out-of-state, including meal reimbursement.
- Operating Services – Advertising, printing, insurance, maintenance, rentals, data processing, internet costs, dues and subscriptions, mail delivery, telephones, data lines, vehicle tracking and telematics, utilities, depreciation, amortization, banking services, credit card fees, etc.
- Supplies – office supplies and equipment, computers, clothing and uniforms, medical, pharmaceutical, food, automotive, repair and maintenance, software, etc.

**Professional Services** – Accounting, auditing, management consulting, engineering, architectural, legal, medical and dental, veterinary, information technology, etc.

### **Total Other Charges**

- Other Charges – Aid to school boards, local government, etc.; public assistance; miscellaneous charges; judgments, fines, and penalties; interest on judgments; punitive/compensatory damages; OC personal services, operating expenses, professional services; contract attorney expenses; recoupments; furlough; contractual services; interest expense; claim payments; commercial group insurance; reinsurance; loans issued; disbursements; etc.
- Debt Service – Principal, interest, related charges, reserve requirement, amortization, and bond premiums.
- Interagency Transfer Line-Item Expenditure – Any expenses paid for with Interagency Transfers – from commodities and services to equipment.

### **Acquisitions and Major Repairs**

- Acquisitions – Land; buildings; automobiles; aircraft; accessories; equipment; software; hardware; farm and heavy equipment; boats; capital outlay expenditures; construction; etc.
- Major Repairs – Land improvement; buildings; automotive; grounds; boats; aircraft; movable equipment; farm equipment; medical; office; library; education; recreation; communication; other equipment; pollution remediation; etc.





# Wildlife and Fisheries

## Categorical Expenditures at FY26 Recommended

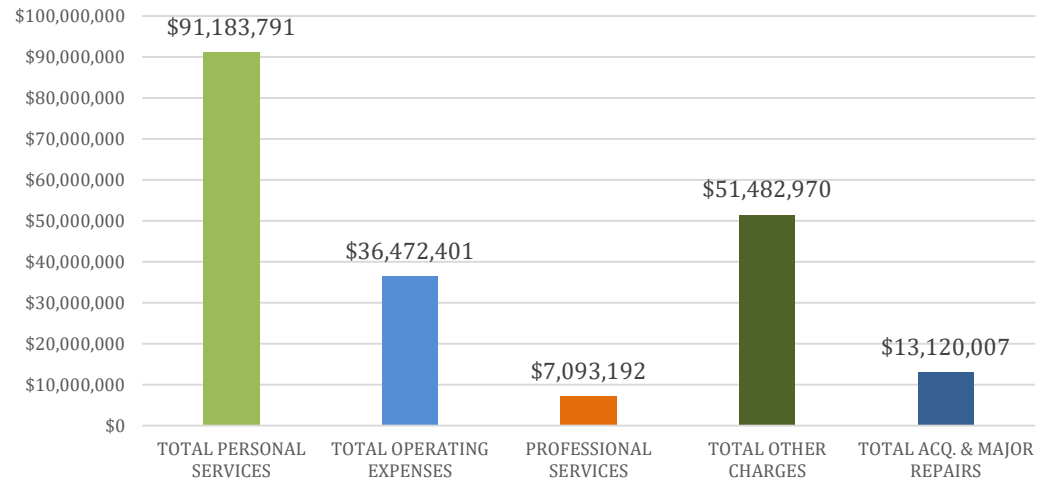
The largest expenditure category in Wildlife and Fisheries for FY26 Recommended is Total Personal Services at 46 percent of the budget.

Within this category, Salaries make up 61 percent of expenditures, while Related Benefits contributes 37 percent.

Total Other Charges make up 26 percent of expenditures, followed by Total Operating Expenses at 18 percent.

The Other Charges category, which makes up 26 percent of Total Expenditures, includes expenditures for funding of various contracts to assist with fisheries projects; Restoration Projects; and Interagency Transfers for payment of services.

FY26 Recommended Expenditures



Categorical Expenditures	FY24 Actual	FY25 Enacted	FY25 EOB as of 12/01/24	FY26 Recommended	Difference FY25 EOB vs. FY26 REC
Salaries	\$47,628,992	\$54,388,830	\$54,388,830	\$55,495,572	\$1,106,742
Other Compensation	\$1,259,727	\$1,777,340	\$1,777,340	\$1,763,731	(\$13,609)
Related Benefits	\$33,392,798	\$32,055,048	\$32,055,048	\$33,924,488	\$1,869,440
<b>TOTAL PERSONAL SERVICES</b>	<b>\$82,281,517</b>	<b>\$88,221,218</b>	<b>\$88,221,218</b>	<b>\$91,183,791</b>	<b>\$2,962,573</b>
Travel	\$527,492	\$679,841	\$914,005	\$876,875	(\$37,130)
Operating Services	\$13,035,563	\$19,624,488	\$22,370,904	\$24,617,990	\$2,247,086
Supplies	\$7,630,330	\$11,160,467	\$13,580,503	\$10,977,536	(\$2,602,967)
<b>TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$21,193,384</b>	<b>\$31,464,796</b>	<b>\$36,865,412</b>	<b>\$36,472,401</b>	<b>(\$393,011)</b>
<b>PROFESSIONAL SERVICES</b>	<b>\$3,496,360</b>	<b>\$12,343,648</b>	<b>\$13,918,888</b>	<b>\$7,093,192</b>	<b>(\$6,825,696)</b>
Other Charges	\$28,559,123	\$61,916,709	\$109,524,049	\$29,818,020	(\$79,706,029)
Debt Service	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Interagency Transfers	\$17,179,564	\$21,806,580	\$22,847,726	\$21,664,950	(\$1,182,776)
<b>TOTAL OTHER CHARGES</b>	<b>\$45,738,687</b>	<b>\$83,723,289</b>	<b>\$132,371,775</b>	<b>\$51,482,970</b>	<b>(\$80,888,805)</b>
Acquisitions	\$12,451,476	\$11,589,296	\$12,743,412	\$5,829,537	(\$6,913,875)
Major Repairs	\$2,923,109	\$8,916,003	\$9,644,683	\$7,290,470	(\$2,354,213)
<b>TOTAL ACQ. &amp; MAJOR REPAIRS</b>	<b>\$15,374,584</b>	<b>\$20,505,299</b>	<b>\$22,388,095</b>	<b>\$13,120,007</b>	<b>(\$9,268,088)</b>
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$168,084,533</b>	<b>\$236,258,250</b>	<b>\$293,765,388</b>	<b>\$199,352,361</b>	<b>(\$94,413,027)</b>



# Wildlife and Fisheries

## FY26 Recommended Categorical Expenditures

### 16-511 - Office of Management and Finance

#### Interagency Transfers

\$166,570	Administrative Law Judges Fees
\$20,839	Civil Service Fees
\$48,643	Division of Administration - LaGov Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) systems
\$25,297	Division of Administration - State Mail Courier Service and Postage
\$155,695	Division of Administration - State Printing Fees
\$400	Division of Administration - Property Tags
\$550,000	Department of Natural Resources - Funding related to the services provided by the State and Energy Review Board
\$135,256	Legislature Auditor Fees
\$48,215	Office of Risk Management (ORM) Fees
\$4,588	Office of State Procurement (OSP) Fees
<b>\$10,738,364</b>	<b>Office of Technology Services (OTS) Fees</b>
<b>\$169,684</b>	<b>Office of Technology Services (OTS) - Printing for Motorboat Registration/Title Documents &amp; Commercial License Renewals/Forms</b>
<b>\$474,406</b>	<b>Office of Technology Services - Telecommunications</b>
<b>\$51,200</b>	<b>Office of Technology Services - Statewide Email System</b>
\$41,700	State Treasury Fees
\$2,993	Uniform Payroll System (UPS) Fees

#### Professional Services

\$59,867	Auditing, accounting, engineering, and legal service related to annual calculation of indirect rate proposal.
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### 16-512 - Office of the Secretary

#### Interagency Transfers

\$14,267	Office of State Procurement (OSP) Fees
<b>\$125,440</b>	<b>Office of Technology Services - IT Supplies &amp; Software</b>
<b>\$29,783</b>	<b>Office of Technology Services - Printing</b>
\$144,774	Civil Service Fees
\$198,682	Division of Administration - HCM/SRM
559,693	Office Aircraft Services
\$1,764,061	Office of Risk Management (ORM) Fees
<b>\$1,205,219</b>	<b>Office of Technology Services (OTS) Fees</b>
\$13,690	Uniform Payroll System (UPS) Fees

#### Professional Services

\$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.



# Wildlife and Fisheries

## FY26 Recommended Categorical Expenditures

### 16-512 - Office of the Secretary continued...

#### Other Charges

\$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.

#### Acquisitions and Major Repairs

\$470,800	Boat trailers, janitorial household equipment, outboard motors, patrol vessels, and law enforcement vehicles
\$200,000	Major repairs to patrol vessels and vehicles

### 16-513 - Office of Wildlife

#### Interagency Transfers

\$250	Board of Pharmacy - Controlled substance licenses for Wildlife veterinarian
\$250	Board of Veterinary Medicine - Certification for Wildlife veterinarian
\$98,702	Civil Service Fees
\$655	Department of Public Safety for back-office functions such as Human
\$191,099	Division of Administration - HCM/SRM
\$80,984	Division of Administration - State Printing Fees
\$857	Division of Administration - Postage
\$42,050	Louisiana Property Assistance Agency - GPS Tracking
\$35,102	Louisiana Property Assistance Agency - Pesticides, Office Supplies, Surplus Furniture and Equipment
\$54,016	Office of Aircraft Services
\$1,260,309	Office of Risk Management (ORM) Fees
\$56,855	Office of State Procurement (OSP) Fees
<b>\$496,583</b>	<b>Office of Technology Services (OTS) Fees</b>
<b>\$489,432</b>	<b>Office of Technology Services (OTS) - Telecommunications</b>
\$12,109	Uniform Payroll System (UPS) Fees
\$94,622	Topographical Mapping

#### Professional Services

\$50,000	Black bear habitat improvement - prescribed burning, habitat manipulations, and habitat treatments at black bear occupied Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs)
\$12,800	Continuing Red-Cockaded Woodpecker management on state, federal, and private lands



# Wildlife and Fisheries

## FY26 Recommended Categorical Expenditures

### 16-513 - Office of Wildlife continued...

#### Professional Services

\$469,830	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.
\$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

#### Acquisitions and Major Repairs

\$8,907,439	Replacement of office equipment, pick-up trucks, ATVs, boats, boat motors, forklifts, bush hogs, backhoes, lawn equipment, tractors, bulldozer, excavator, barge, generators, water pumps, trailers and equipment needed to maintain Wildlife Management Areas throughout the state.
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#### Acquisitions and Major Repairs continued...

\$780,670	Major repairs to buildings, shooting ranges, boats, vehicles, water pumps, boat ramps, roads, trails, parking areas, campground development, water structures and levees on Wildlife Management Areas throughout the state.
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#### Other Charges

\$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
\$3,905,669	Coastwide Nutria Control Program; Natural Resources Damage Assessment; Alligator Snapping Turtle Head Start Program
\$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



# Wildlife and Fisheries

## FY26 Recommended Categorical Expenditures

### 16-513 - Office of Wildlife continued...

#### Other Charges

\$621,430 Ducks Unlimited White Lake Shore Line Project  
 \$46,000 Salaries and Related Benefits for Other Charges positions

#### Other Charges

\$1,000,000 Matching funds related to artificial reef projects in partnership with the Coastal Conservation Association  
 \$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

### 16-514 - Office of Fisheries

#### Professional Services

\$139,788 Contracts to assist with Natural Resources Damage Assessment (NRDA) projects  
 \$16,462 Derelict crab trap cleanup  
 \$1,492,548 Reef Survey Services; Recycled Oyster Shell Services  
 \$96,564 Boat ramp repairs  
 \$726,000 Professional services for the La CARES Act Administration, Marketing for the La Oyster Task Force, Fisheries Surveys  
 \$116,000 Crab sustainability certification contract  
 \$305,376 Commercial Equipment Reimbursement Grant Program - grant program disbursement

\$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  
 \$6,255,290 Various contracts to assist with Fisheries projects, including Sportfish Restoration projects, Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) projects, and university fisheries research projects.  
 2,121,794 Grand Isle Oyster Hatchery and oyster remodeling

#### Interagency Transfers

\$97,646 Civil Service Fees  
 \$106,704 Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism - Seafood Promotion and Marketing  
 \$125,046 Division of Administration - HCM/SRM  
 \$34,930 Louisiana Property Assistance Agency - Vehicle GPS  
 \$794,460 Office of Risk Management (ORM) Fees  
 \$24,903 Office of State Procurement (OSP) Fees  
**\$866,921 Office of Technology Services (OTS) Fees**  
 \$11,006 Uniform Payroll System (UPS) Fees





# Wildlife and Fisheries

## FY26 Recommended Categorical Expenditures

### **16-513 - Office of Fisheries continued...**

#### **Acquisitions and Major Repairs**

\$1,799,090	Replacement of office equipment, office furniture, pick-up trucks, winches, boats, boat motors and trailers, storage building, water quality instruments, hydraulic press, plasma cutter, ice machine, electrofisher, herbicide spray pumps, fish pump, ATV-utility vehicles, salinometer, ponar grab sampler, centrifuge, data collection platform, log splitter, GPS Sounder, utility trailer, navigation equipment, tension and articulated buoys.
\$962,008	Major repairs to vehicles, laboratory buildings throughout the state, boats, boat motors, tractors, mowers, buildings, sheds, buoys, quarter barge repairs, levees and water bottoms.

***(Office of Technology Services (OTS) payments total \$14.6 million.)***

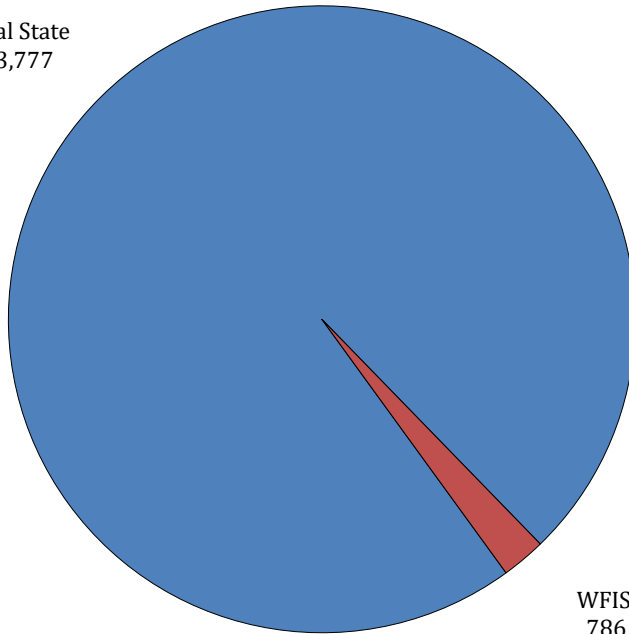


# Wildlife and Fisheries

## FTEs, Authorized T.O., and Other Charges Positions

**FY26 Recommended Department Positions  
as a portion of  
FY26 Recommended HB1 Authorized Positions**

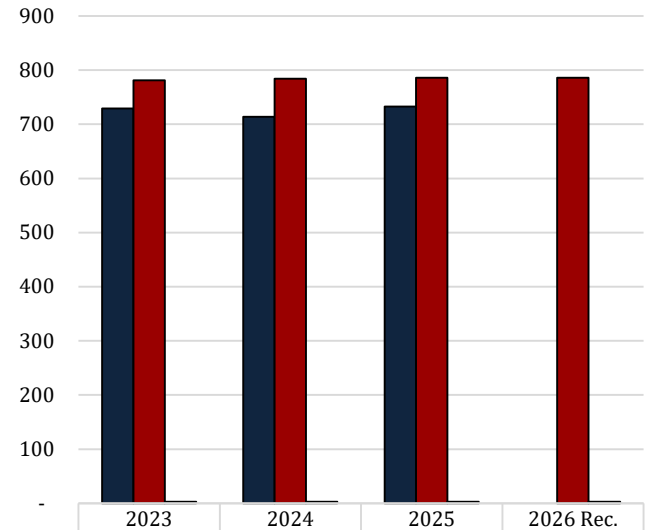
Total State  
33,777



WFIS  
786  
2%

FY25 number of funded, but not filled,  
positions as of January 2025 = 78

**Number  
and  
Types  
of  
Positions**



	2023	2024	2025	2026 Rec.
■ Total FTEs (1st July Report)	729	714	733	-
■ Authorized T.O. Positions	781	784	786	786
■ Other Charges Positions	3	3	3	3

The full-time equivalent or **FTE** definition refers to the number of hours considered full-time. For example, if an agency considers 40 hours full time, and there are two employees working 20 hours per week, those two employees would be 1.0 FTE.

**Authorized Positions** are those referred to in the Table of Organization (or T.O.) for each department. This count includes only those positions paid for from the Salaries expenditure category for the organization units and agencies included in each department's appropriation. This excludes positions paid for from other expenditure categories, such as wages or per diem.

**Other Charges** positions are authorized under R.S. 39:2(5)(b) ...

(5)(b) "Authorized other charges positions" means the number of positions in an appropriation bill to be funded by the other charges continuing category of the accounting system for the state. The number may be adjusted during a fiscal year in accordance with law.

- [Act 377 of 2013 by Rep. Burrell]
- Positions coded in the Other Charges expenditure category
- These positions are usually associated with federal grants



# Wildlife and Fisheries

## Related Employment Information

Salaries and Related Benefits for the 786 Authorized Positions are listed below in Chart 1.  
In Chart 2, benefits are broken out to show the portion paid for active versus retired employees.  
This is where payments for the Unfunded Accrued Liability (UAL) can be found.

1.

Personal Services	2023 Actual	2024 Actual	2025 Enacted	2026 Recommended
Salaries	\$48,493,779	\$47,628,992	\$54,388,830	\$55,495,572
Other Compensation	\$1,514,707	\$1,259,727	\$1,777,340	\$1,763,731
Related Benefits	\$32,745,507	\$33,392,798	\$32,055,048	\$33,924,488
<b>Total Personal Services</b>	<b>\$82,753,993</b>	<b>\$82,281,517</b>	<b>\$88,221,218</b>	<b>\$91,183,791</b>

Average T.O. Salary = \$69,863

*Examples of Other Compensation include pay for WAE employees, part-time employees, student workers, etc.*

2.

Related Benefits FY26 Recommended	Total Funding	%
Total Related Benefits	\$33,924,488	
UAL payments	\$14,614,045	43%
Retiree Health Benefits	\$5,957,474	
Remaining Benefits*	\$13,462,462	
Means of Finance	General Fund = 33%	Other = 67%

Department Demographics	Total	%
<b>Gender</b>		
Female	197	26
Male	550	74
<b>Race/Ethnicity</b>		
White	693	92.8
Black	47	6.3
Other	7	0.9
<b>Currently in DROP or Eligible to Retire</b>	98	13

\* Remaining Benefits include employer contribution to authorized positions' retirement, health, Medicare, FICA, Emoluments etc. The authorized positions include authorized T.O. positions and authorized other charges positions, both filled and vacant.

Other Charges Benefits  
\$109,493

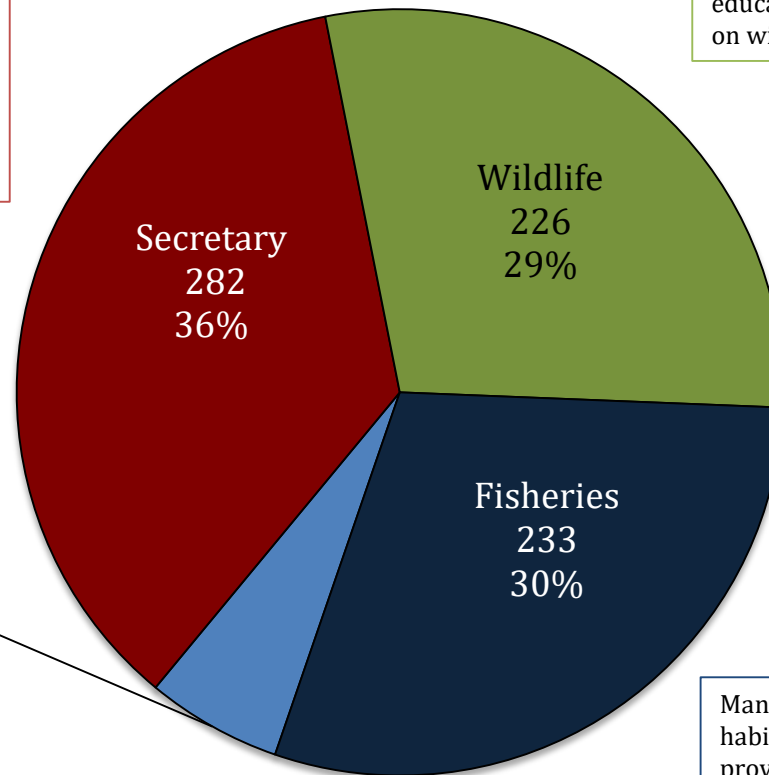


# Wildlife and Fisheries

## FY26 Recommended Total Authorized Positions by Agency

The Administrative activity includes the Secretary and his support staff, the department's legal section, and an Internal Auditor. The Enforcement activity establishes and maintains compliance through the execution and enforcement of laws, rules and regulations of the state relative to the management, conservation and protection of renewable natural resources and fisheries resources.

Provides stewardship of the state's wildlife and habitats by managing Wildlife Management Areas, provides hunter education services, collects and analyzes data on wildlife and their associated habitats.



Management and  
Finance  
45  
6%

Performs the financial, licensing, program evaluation, planning, and general support service functions for the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.

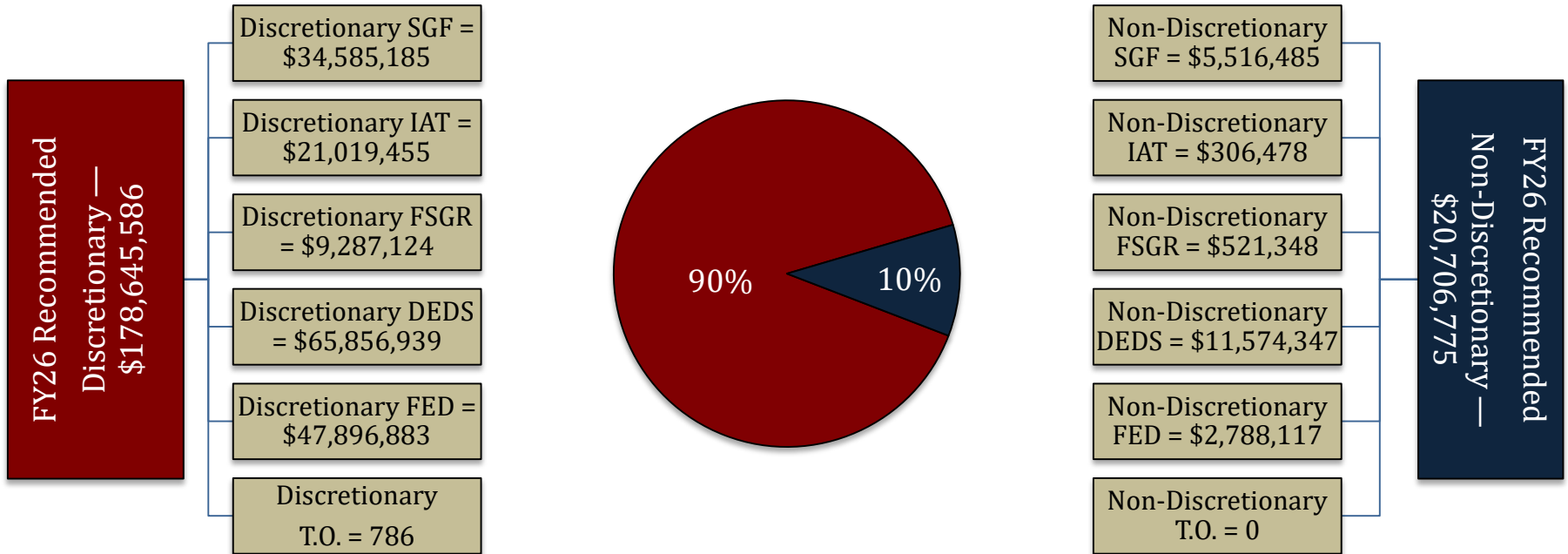
Total Authorized Positions = 786

Manages living aquatic resources and their habitat, gives fishery industry support, and provides access to Louisiana aquatic resources for citizens and other beneficiaries of these sustainable resources. Activities of the Fisheries Program include Fisheries Management, and Fisheries Research and Extension.



# Wildlife and Fisheries

## FY26 Discretionary/Non-Discretionary Comparison



Total Discretionary Funding by Office		
Management and Finance	\$ 19,222,303	11%
Administrative	\$ 3,098,209	2%
Enforcement	\$ 37,764,821	21%
Wildlife	\$ 58,852,471	33%
Fisheries	\$ 59,707,782	33%
<b>Total Discretionary</b>	<b>\$ 178,645,586</b>	<b>100%</b>

Total Non-Discretionary Funding by Type		
Required by the Constitution	\$ 14,614,045	71%
Needed for Debt Service	\$ -	0%
Due to Federal Mandate	\$ -	0%
Unavoidable Obligations	\$ 6,092,730	29%
<b>Total Non-Discretionary</b>	<b>\$ 20,706,775</b>	<b>100%</b>
<i>Required by the Constitution = State Retirement Systems UAL</i> <i>Unavoidable Obligations = Retirees Group Insurance;</i> <i>Legislative Auditor Fees</i>		





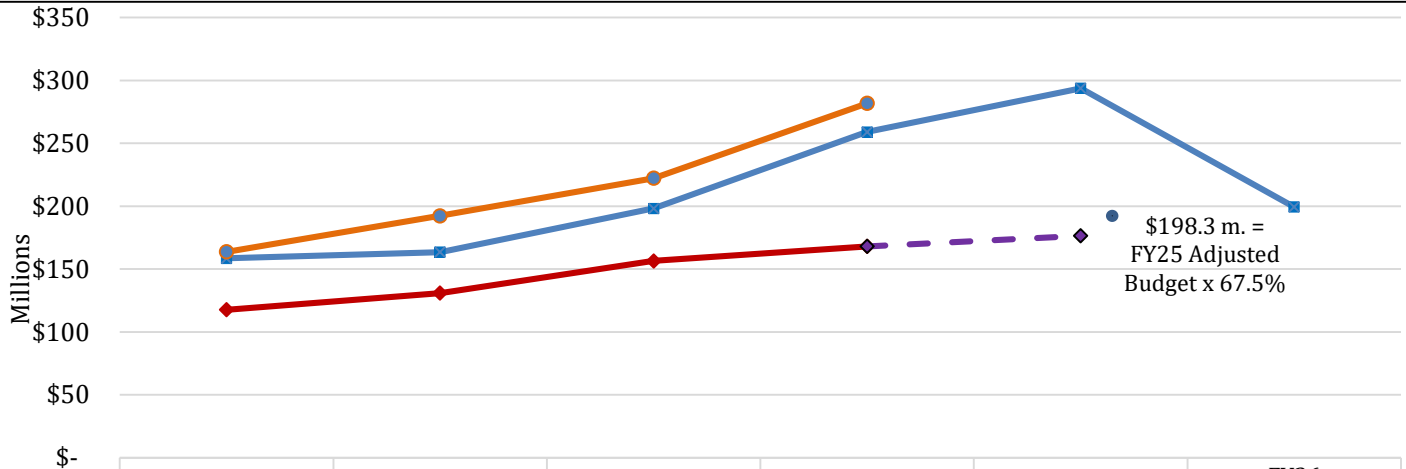
# 16 – Wildlife and Fisheries

## Enacted & FYE Budget vs. Actual Expenditures FY21 to FY24

**FYE Budget = "Fiscal Year End" Budget** includes all in-house and regular BA-7s through June 30 of the fiscal year. For FY25, it is as of January.

**FY25 Known  
Supplemental Needs:  
\$0**

**FY24 General Fund  
Reversions:  
\$405,895**



	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25 EOB	FY26 Recommended
Enacted Budget	\$158,462,463	\$163,516,820	\$198,253,423	\$259,051,480	\$293,765,388	\$199,352,361
FYE Budget	\$163,689,834	\$192,327,440	\$222,297,283	\$281,801,094		
Actual Expenditures	\$117,690,992	\$130,919,457	\$156,518,323	\$168,084,533		
FY25 Expenditure Trend				\$168,084,533	\$176,430,873	

Monthly Budget Activity				
	FY25 Adjusted Budget	FY25 Aggregate Expenditures	Remaining Budget Authority	Percent Expended To Date
Jul-24	\$ 236,258,250	\$ 10,960,956	\$ 225,297,294	4.6%
Aug-24	\$ 293,765,388	\$ 30,507,558	\$ 263,257,830	10.4%
Sep-24	\$ 293,765,388	\$ 42,965,362	\$ 250,800,026	14.6%
Oct-24	\$ 293,765,388	\$ 64,317,462	\$ 229,447,926	21.9%
Nov-24	\$ 293,765,388	\$ 76,154,500	\$ 217,610,888	25.9%
Dec-24	\$ 293,765,388	\$ 90,419,402	\$ 203,345,986	30.8%
Jan-25	\$ 294,391,029	\$ 102,918,009	\$ 191,473,020	35.0%

Monthly Budget Activity				
	FY25 Adjusted Budget	FY25 Aggregate Expenditures	Remaining Budget Authority	Percent Expended To Date
<i>(Trend based on average monthly expenditures to date)</i>				
Feb-25	\$ 294,391,029	\$ 117,620,582	\$ 176,770,447	40.0%
Mar-25	\$ 294,391,029	\$ 132,323,154	\$ 162,067,875	44.9%
Apr-25	\$ 294,391,029	\$ 147,025,727	\$ 147,365,302	49.9%
May-25	\$ 294,391,029	\$ 161,728,300	\$ 132,662,729	54.9%
Jun-25	\$ 294,391,029	\$ 176,430,873	\$ 117,960,156	59.9%

Historical Year End Average

67.5%