



Louisiana Senate Finance Committee



FY27 Executive Budget

16 – Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

March 2026

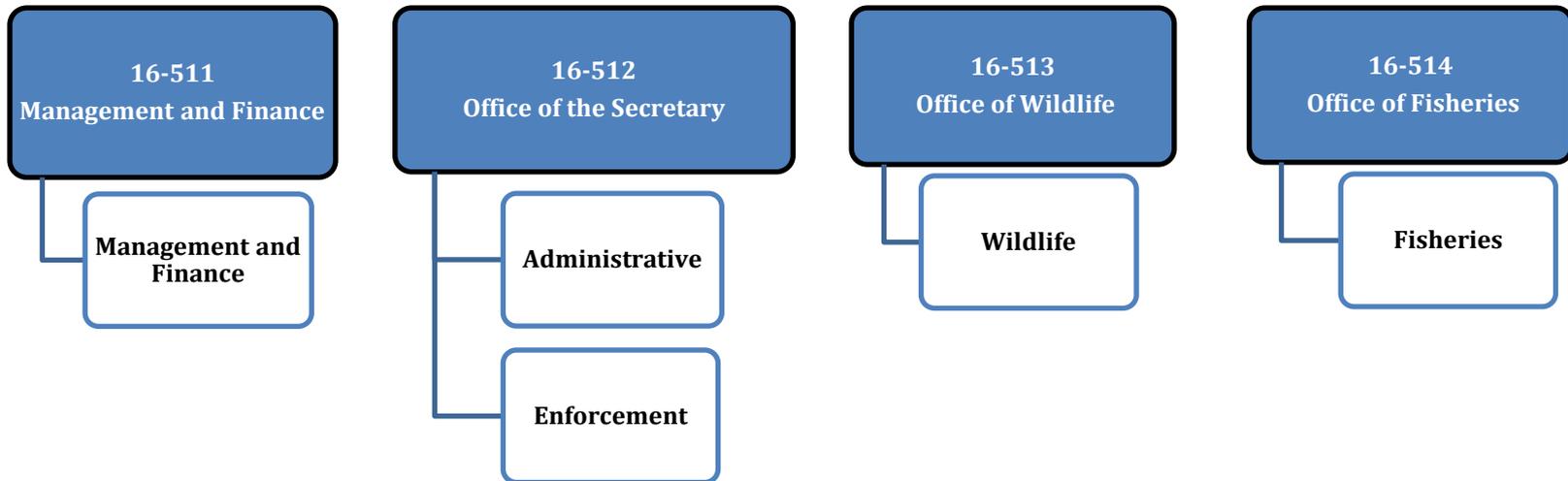
Senator Cameron Henry, President
Senator Glen Womack, Chairman



FY27 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 FY27 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.





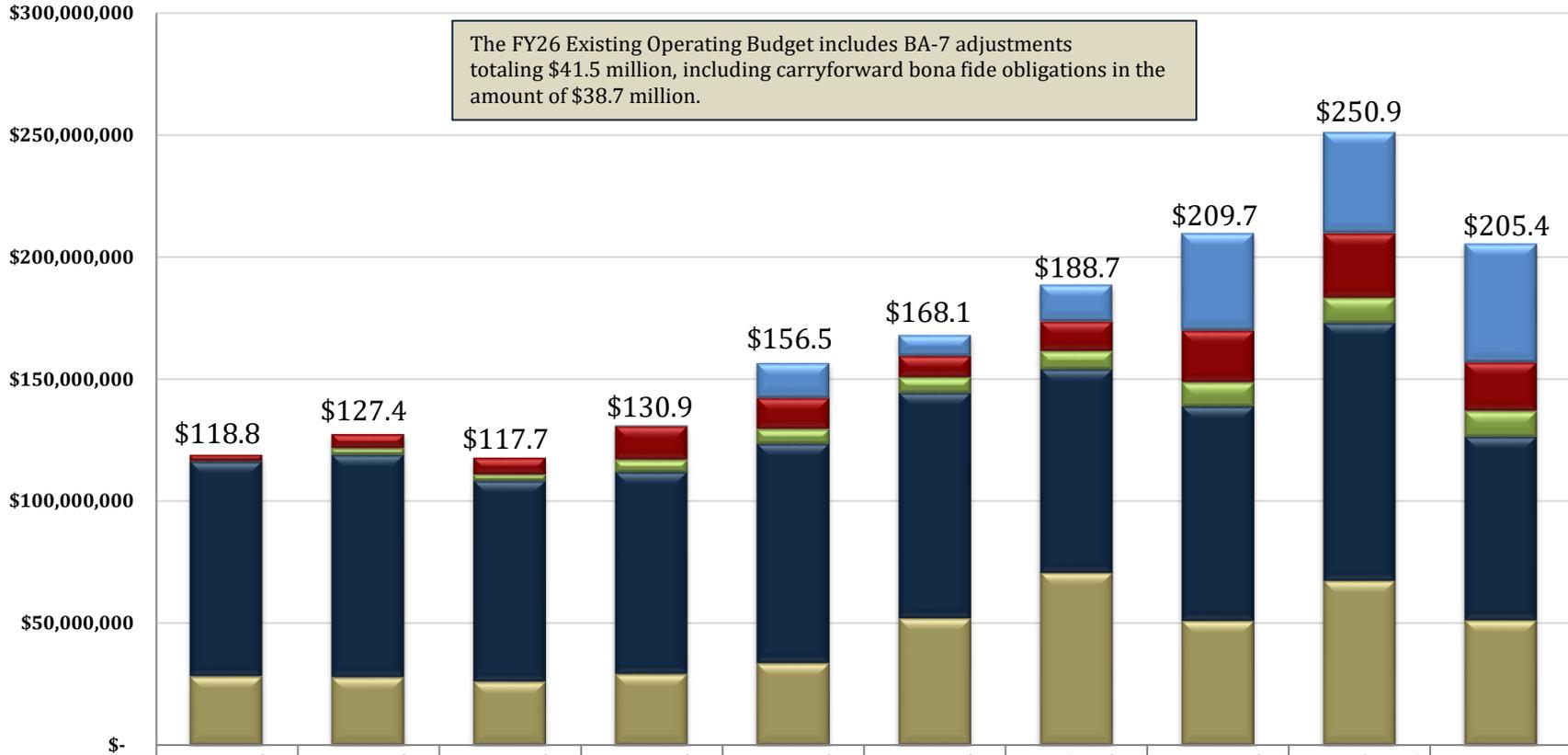
Wildlife and Fisheries

Changes in Funding since FY19

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

Change from FY19 to FY27 is +72.9%. (Actual to Recommended)

Change from FY19 to FY25 is +58.8%. (Actual to Actual)



The FY26 Existing Operating Budget includes BA-7 adjustments totaling \$41.5 million, including carryforward bona fide obligations in the amount of \$38.7 million.

	FY19 Actual	FY20 Actual	FY21 Actual	FY22 Actual	FY23 Actual	FY24 Actual	FY25 Actual	FY26 Enacted	FY26 as of 12-1-25	FY27 Rec.
■SGF	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$155,711	\$14,279,577	\$8,716,442	\$15,098,155	\$39,831,521	\$41,304,956	\$48,648,486
■IAT	\$2,541,656	\$5,933,322	\$7,015,619	\$13,958,440	\$12,855,100	\$8,787,571	\$12,200,713	\$21,325,933	\$26,569,969	\$19,974,252
■FSGR	\$142,938	\$2,574,230	\$2,429,526	\$4,986,053	\$5,956,762	\$6,362,282	\$7,501,751	\$9,808,472	\$10,270,251	\$10,459,910
■STAT DED	\$88,119,109	\$91,160,365	\$82,364,070	\$82,755,842	\$89,976,914	\$92,494,448	\$83,600,009	\$87,999,490	\$105,789,753	\$75,420,403
■FED	\$28,002,114	\$27,742,076	\$25,881,777	\$29,063,411	\$33,449,969	\$51,723,789	\$70,260,883	\$50,685,000	\$67,051,207	\$50,912,227



Significant Budget Adjustments Recommended for FY27

State General Fund (Direct)	Interagency Transfers	Fees and Self-generated Revenues	Statutory Dedications	Federal Funds	Total	T.O.	Adjustment
\$41,304,956	\$26,569,969	\$10,270,251	\$105,789,753	\$67,051,207	\$250,986,136	786	FY26 Existing Operating Budget as of 12-1-25
(\$270,149)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	(\$270,149)	(1)	Annualization of Preamble Section 19 Personal Services reduction in Act 1 of the 2025 RLS
\$902,000	\$448,350	\$302,031	\$5,623,770	\$6,224,802	\$13,500,953	0	Acquisitions & Major Repairs
\$0	\$0	\$0	(\$166,570)	\$0	(\$166,570)	0	Administrative Law Judges
\$0	\$0	(\$44,782)	(\$882,486)	\$0	(\$927,268)	0	Attrition Adjustment
\$0	\$0	\$0	\$30,617	\$0	\$30,617	0	Civil Service Fees
\$0	\$0	\$0	\$62,227	\$0	\$62,227	0	Civil Service Training Series
\$0	\$0	\$0	\$366,489	\$0	\$366,489	0	Group Insurance Rate Adjustment for Active Employees
\$0	\$0	\$0	\$301,218	\$0	\$301,218	0	Group Insurance Rate Adjustment for Retirees
\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,241	\$0	\$1,241	0	Legislative Auditor Fees
\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,183,120	\$0	\$2,183,120	0	Market Rate Classified
\$0	(\$441,855)	(\$286,240)	(\$7,988,184)	(\$7,160,185)	(\$15,876,464)	0	Non-recurring Acquisitions & Major Repairs
(\$1,473,435)	(\$5,244,036)	(\$461,779)	(\$15,649,893)	(\$15,750,120)	(\$38,579,263)	0	Non-recurring Carryforwards
\$0	\$0	\$0	(\$9,369)	\$0	(\$9,369)	0	Office of State Procurement
\$0	\$0	\$0	\$3,026,080	\$224,898	\$3,250,978	0	Office of Technology Services (OTS)
(\$140,189)	\$0	\$0	\$1,177,684	\$0	\$1,037,495	0	Related Benefits Base Adjustment
\$0	\$0	\$0	(\$572,254)	\$0	(\$572,254)	(8)	Personnel Reductions
(\$30,930)	\$0	\$0	(\$774,108)	\$0	(\$805,038)	0	Retirement Rate Adjustment
\$0	\$0	\$0	(\$144,470)	\$0	(\$144,470)	0	Risk Management
(\$144,565)	\$0	\$0	\$1,448,879	\$0	\$1,304,314	0	Salary Base Adjustment
\$0	\$0	\$0	(\$685)	\$0	(\$685)	0	State Treasury Fees
\$0	\$0	\$0	(\$7,362)	\$0	(\$7,362)	0	Topographic Mapping
\$0	\$0	\$0	\$2,682	\$0	\$2,682	0	UPS Fees
(\$1,157,268)	(\$5,237,541)	(\$490,770)	(\$11,971,374)	(\$16,460,605)	(\$35,317,558)	(9)	Total Statewide Adjustments
\$8,500,798	\$0	\$23,000	(\$8,523,798)	\$0	\$0	0	Total Means of Financing Substitution Adjustments
\$0	\$0	\$619,027	\$0	\$0	\$619,027	0	Total Other Annualizations Adjustments
\$0	(\$1,574,605)	\$0	(\$11,068,204)	\$0	(\$12,642,809)	0	Total Non-Recurring Other Adjustments
\$0	\$216,429	\$38,402	\$1,194,026	\$321,625	\$1,770,482	0	Total Other Adjustments
\$48,648,486	\$19,974,252	\$10,459,910	\$75,420,403	\$50,912,227	\$205,415,278	777	Total FY27 Recommended Budget



Significant Budget Adjustments Recommended for FY27

Non-Recurring Other Adjustments

State General Fund (Direct)	Interagency Transfers	Fees and Self-generated Revenues	Statutory Dedications	Federal Funds	Total	T.O.	Adjustment
\$0	(\$1,574,605)	\$0	\$0	\$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	\$0	\$0	(\$1,000,000)	\$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	\$0	\$0	(\$9,568,204)	\$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.
\$0	\$0	\$0	(\$500,000)	\$0	(\$500,000)	0	Non-recurs Statutory Dedications out of the White Lake Property Fund for one-time White Lake Property repair needs.
\$0	(\$1,574,605)	\$0	(\$11,068,204)	\$0	(\$12,642,809)	0	Total Non-Recurring Other Adjustments

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	\$23,000	(\$23,000)	\$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.
\$8,500,798	\$0	\$0	(\$8,500,798)	\$0	\$0	0	Means of finance substitution increasing State General Fund (Direct) and decreasing Statutory Dedications out of the Conservation Fund for personal services.
\$8,500,798	\$0	\$23,000	(\$8,523,798)	\$0	\$0	0	Total Means of Financing Substitutions Adjustments



Significant Budget Adjustments Recommended for FY27

Other Adjustments

State General Fund (Direct)	Interagency Transfers	Fees and Self-generated Revenues	Statutory Dedications	Federal Funds	Total	T.O.	Adjustment
\$0	\$0	\$0	\$8,436	\$0	\$8,436	0	Adjusts funding for services provided by the Office of Aircraft Services.
\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$321,625	\$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	\$0	\$37,500	\$0	\$0	\$37,500	0	Increases Fees and Self-generated Revenues for wild turkey habitat improvements within Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs).
\$0	\$0	\$4,500	\$0	\$0	\$4,500	0	Increases Fees and Self-generated Revenues to attend whooping crane activities and conferences.
\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,000,000	\$0	\$1,000,000	0	Increases Statutory Dedications out of the Louisiana Outdoors Forever Fund for outdoor conservation projects.
\$0	\$0	\$0	\$25,190	\$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.
\$0	\$0	\$0	\$30,400	\$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 in habitats.
\$0	\$216,429	\$0	\$0	\$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.
\$0	\$0	\$0	\$130,000	\$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	\$0	(\$3,598)	\$0	\$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.
\$0	\$216,429	\$38,402	\$1,194,026	\$321,625	\$1,770,482	0	Total Other Adjustments

Other Annualizations

State General Fund (Direct)	Interagency Transfers	Fees and Self-generated Revenues	Statutory Dedications	Federal Funds	Total	T.O.	Adjustment
\$0	\$0	\$469,027	\$0	\$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	\$0	\$150,000	\$0	\$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.
\$0	\$0	\$619,027	\$0	\$0	\$619,027	0	Total Other Annualizations Adjustments

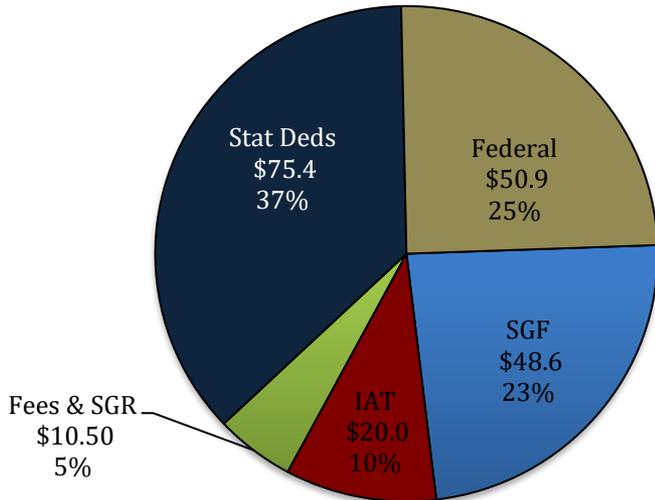


Wildlife and Fisheries

FY27 Recommended Means of Finance

Total Funding	FY25 Actual	FY26 Enacted	FY26 EOB as of 12-1-25	FY27 Recommended	Difference FY27 Recommended vs. FY26 EOB as of 12-1-25
Management and Finance	\$ 20,477,332	\$ 31,400,673	\$ 39,983,995	\$ 24,476,935	\$ (15,507,060)
Secretary	\$ 46,558,022	\$ 49,541,972	\$ 50,877,918	\$ 51,160,277	\$ 282,359
Wildlife	\$ 47,319,583	\$ 63,791,175	\$ 73,458,280	\$ 65,785,650	\$ (7,672,630)
Fisheries	\$ 74,306,573	\$ 64,916,596	\$ 86,665,943	\$ 63,992,416	\$ (22,673,527)
TOTAL	\$ 188,661,510	\$ 209,650,416	\$ 250,986,136	\$ 205,415,278	\$ (45,570,858)
Total Positions	786	786	786	777	(9)

**FY27 Recommended
Total Means of Finance
(In Millions)**



Total \$205.4 m.

Non-SGF Sources of Funding:

Statutory Dedications and Federal Funds are the two primary sources of revenue for the department in addition to the State General Fund.

Statutory Dedications, which make up 37 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	FY25 Actual	FY26 EOB	FY27 Recommended
Artificial Reef Development Fund	Fees and donations	\$4,389,099	\$7,587,695	\$7,193,279
Charter Boat Fishing Fund	Fees	\$714,963	\$816,450	\$816,450
Conservation - Waterfowl Account	Fees for the sale of the Ducks Unlimited Plate	\$237,360	\$0	\$0
Conservation Fund	Fees, donations, grants, mineral royalties, leases	\$61,432,568	\$57,397,680	\$47,108,529
Conservation of the Black Bear Account	Fees for the sale of the Louisiana Black Bear Plate	\$22,677	\$208,500	\$208,500
Conservation - Quail Account	Fees for the sale of the Quail Forever Plate	\$21,342	\$25,587	\$18,987
Conservation - White Tail Deer Account	Fees for the sale of the White Tail Deer Plate	\$15	\$15,700	\$15,700
Crab Dev Mgt and Derelict Crab Trap Removal Account	Fees	\$115,524	\$203,119	\$219,667
LA Outdoors Forever Fund	Appropriations, public or private grants, gifts, or donations	\$5,475,105	\$3,225,607	\$1,000,000
Litter Abatement and Education Account	Fees, fines, penalties from littering violations	\$66,502	\$99,800	\$99,800
LA Fur Public Education & Marketing Fund	Licensing fees	\$52,882	\$68,049	\$59,500
LA Wild Turkey Fund	Fees from the sale of the LA Wild Turkey Stamp	\$2,210	\$30,100	\$32,850
Marsh Island Operating Fund	Royalties from leases	\$39,011	\$193,808	\$167,808
MC Davis Conservation Fund	Fees and donations	\$0	\$10,775	\$5,400
Modernization and Security Fund	Grants, donations, gifts, or other monies	\$0	\$9,568,204	\$0
Oil Spill Contingency Fund	Settlements and judgements related to oil spill clean-up	\$192,522	\$323,659	\$331,159
Oyster Development Fund	Fees from oyster tag sales	\$104,164	\$149,989	\$158,631
Oyster Resource Management Account	From the sale of commercial oyster gear licenses and the sale of oyster cargo vessel permits	\$3,350,641	\$8,138,642	\$3,460,824



Wildlife and Fisheries Dedicated Funds

Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge & Game Preserve Fund	Royalties from leases	\$2,243,620	\$4,726,289	\$3,534,229
Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge Trust & Protect Fund	Royalties from leases	\$999,466	\$5,027,997	\$3,274,130
Russell Sage Special Fund #2	Interest and income from investments and transfers	\$0	\$2,500,000	\$2,500,000
Saltwater Fish Research & Conservation Fund	Fees on saltwater fishing licenses	\$984,834	\$1,300,000	\$1,300,000
State Emergency Response Fund	Donations, legislative appropriations	\$979,865	\$0	\$0
Seafood Promotion & Marketing Fund	Licensing and gear fees	\$16,493	\$23,209	\$23,209
Shrimp Development & Management Account	Shrimp gear fees	\$188,087	\$250,900	\$250,900
Shrimp Marketing & Promotion Account	Fees	\$161,858	\$220,000	\$220,000
White Lake Property Fund	Fees, revenues from leases and royalty payments	\$1,070,318	\$1,920,500	\$1,455,000
Wildlife Habitat & Natural Heritage Trust	Fees, public and private donations, grants	\$738,884	\$1,757,494	\$1,965,851
TOTALS		\$83,600,010	\$105,789,753	\$75,420,403



Wildlife and Fisheries Conservation Fund

Below is the expenditure history for the Conservation Fund from FY19 through the FY27 Recommended Budget:

Conservation Fund Expenditure History

FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26 EOB	FY27 Recommended
\$79,392,926	\$70,982,421	\$72,470,907	\$66,923,102	\$74,815,283	\$73,541,212	\$61,432,568	\$57,397,680	\$47,108,529

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.

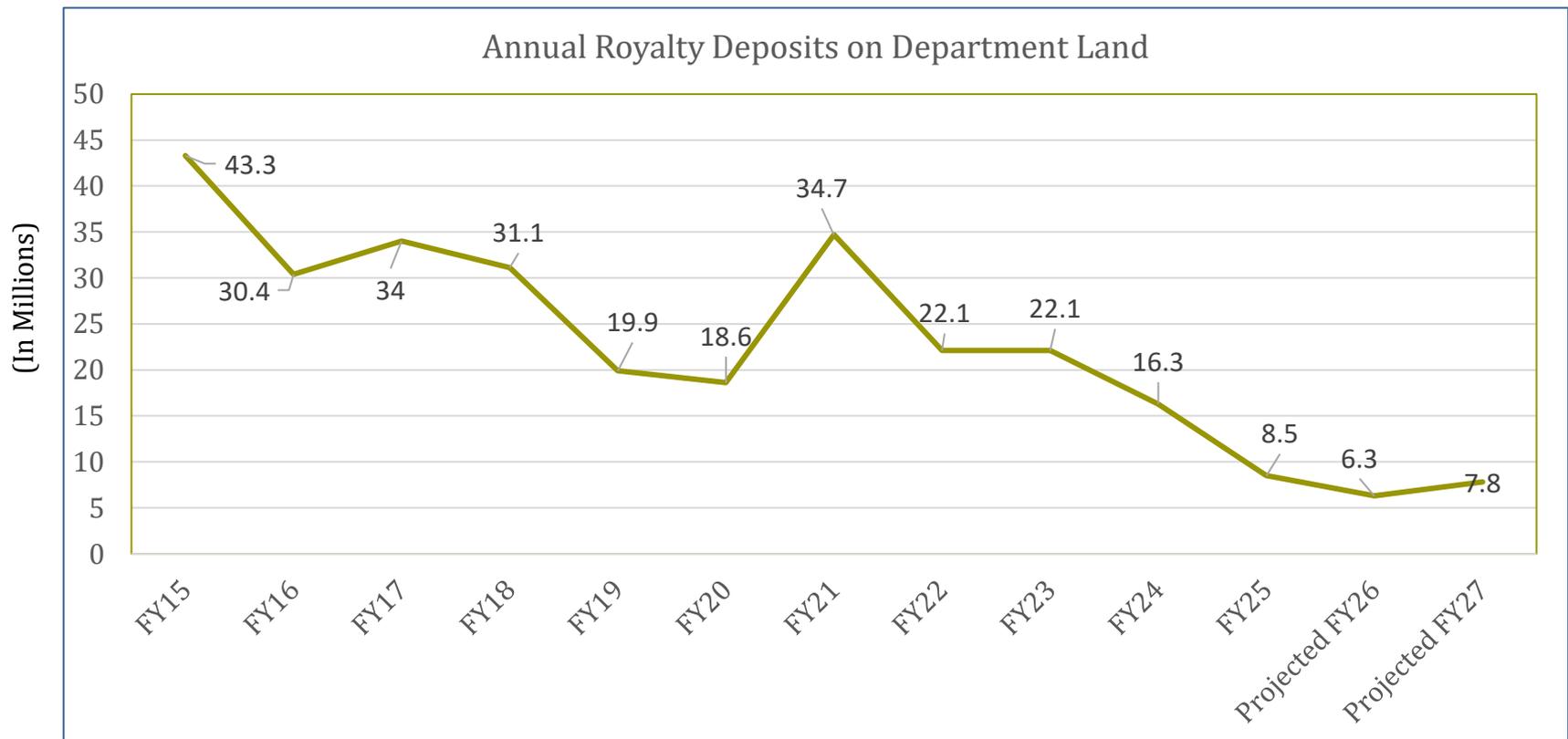
Act 114 of the 2021 R.S. transferred \$16,963,667 from the State General Fund (Direct) into the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Conservation Fund. As a result of Act 356 of the 2021 R.S., the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries implemented a new fee structure for hunting and fishing licenses and boat 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 **(\$10.3 Million)** in the FY27 Recommended Budget from the FY26 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. The Conservation Fund, which has LDWF afloat over the years, continues to decline.





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 FY27 Recommended

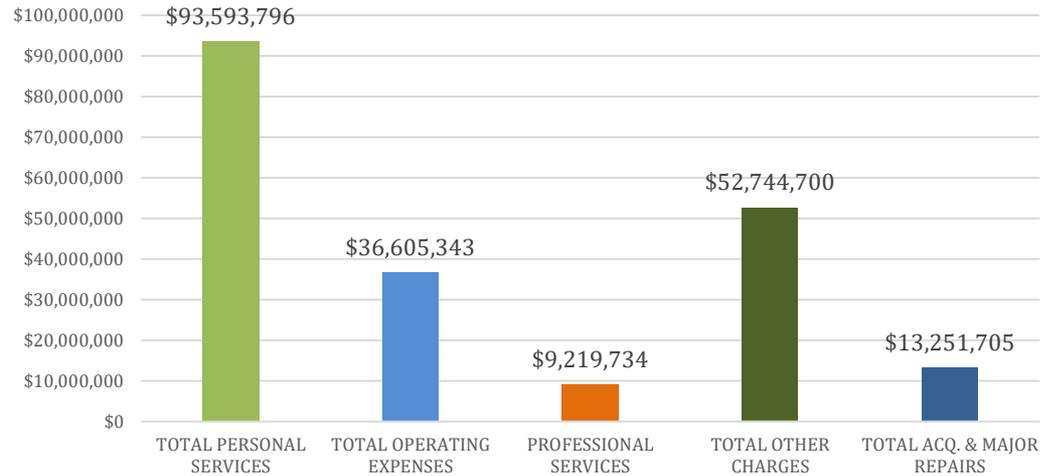
The largest expenditure category in Wildlife and Fisheries for FY27 Recommended is Total Personal Services at 46 percent of the budget.

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.

FY27 Recommended Expenditures



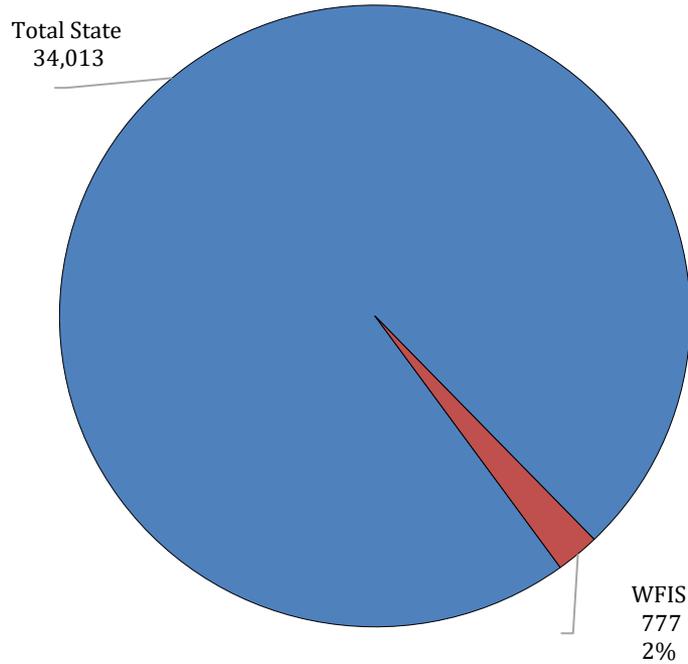
Categorical Expenditures	FY25 Actual	FY26 Enacted	FY26 EOB as of 12/01/25	FY27 Recommended	Difference FY26 EOB vs. FY27 REC
Salaries	\$52,473,423	\$55,333,483	\$55,401,522	\$57,143,810	\$1,742,288
Other Compensation	\$1,263,957	\$1,763,731	\$1,763,731	\$1,763,731	\$0
Related Benefits	\$32,387,655	\$33,816,428	\$33,839,199	\$34,686,255	\$847,056
TOTAL PERSONAL SERVICES	\$86,125,036	\$90,913,642	\$91,004,452	\$93,593,796	\$2,589,344
Travel	\$658,772	\$876,875	\$939,195	\$876,875	(\$62,320)
Operating Services	\$14,723,709	\$24,617,990	\$27,086,741	\$24,622,490	(\$2,464,251)
Supplies	\$8,430,747	\$10,977,536	\$12,481,089	\$11,105,978	(\$1,375,111)
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	\$23,813,228	\$36,472,401	\$40,507,025	\$36,605,343	(\$3,901,682)
PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	\$4,606,443	\$7,093,192	\$9,067,385	\$9,219,734	\$152,349
Other Charges	\$48,430,401	\$30,818,020	\$54,868,527	\$27,815,004	(\$27,053,523)
Debt Service	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Interagency Transfers	\$15,122,136	\$31,233,154	\$37,689,269	\$24,929,696	(\$12,759,573)
TOTAL OTHER CHARGES	\$63,552,536	\$62,051,174	\$92,557,796	\$52,744,700	(\$39,813,096)
Acquisitions	\$7,713,157	\$5,829,537	\$10,405,206	\$7,495,465	(\$2,909,741)
Major Repairs	\$2,851,110	\$7,290,470	\$7,444,272	\$5,756,240	(\$1,688,032)
TOTAL ACQ. & MAJOR REPAIRS	\$10,564,267	\$13,120,007	\$17,849,478	\$13,251,705	(\$4,597,773)
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$188,661,510	\$209,650,416	\$250,986,136	\$205,415,278	(\$45,570,858)



Wildlife and Fisheries

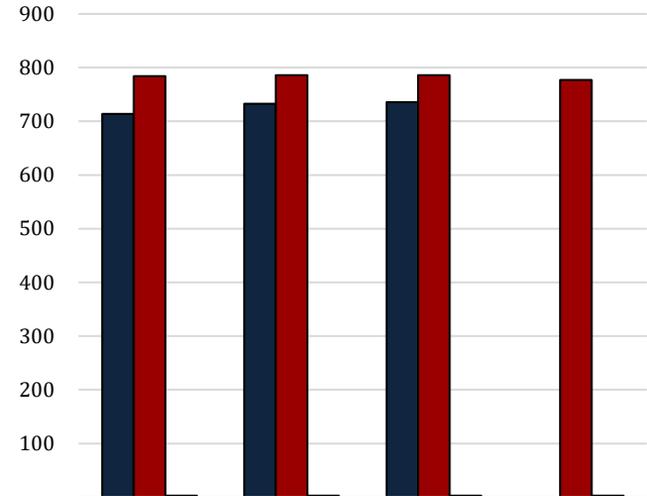
FTEs, Authorized T.O., and Other Charges Positions

**FY27 Recommended Department Positions
as a portion of
FY27 Recommended HB1 Authorized Positions**



FY26 number of funded, but not filled, positions as of January 2026 = 77

**Number
and
Types
of
Positions**



	2024	2025	2026	2027 Rec.
■ Total FTEs (1st July Report)	714	733	736	-
■ Authorized T.O. Positions	784	786	786	777
■ 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 777 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	2024 Actual	2025 Actual	2026 Enacted	2027 Recommended
Salaries	\$47,628,992	\$52,473,423	\$55,333,483	\$57,143,810
Other Compensation	\$1,259,727	\$1,263,957	\$1,763,731	\$1,763,731
Related Benefits	\$33,392,798	\$32,387,655	\$33,816,428	\$34,686,255
Total Personal Services	\$82,281,517	\$86,125,036	\$90,913,642	\$93,593,796

Average T.O. Salary = \$68,859

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

2.

Related Benefits FY27 Recommended	Total Funding	%
Total Related Benefits	\$34,686,255	
UAL payments	\$13,967,351	40%
Retiree Health Benefits	\$6,258,692	
Remaining Benefits*	\$14,631,155	
Means of Finance	General Fund = 41%	Other = 59%

Department Demographics	Total	%
Gender		
Female	211	27
Male	569	73
Race/Ethnicity		
White	709	91
Black	51	6.5
Other	20	2.5
Currently in DROP or Eligible to Retire	80	10.3

* 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
\$170,943

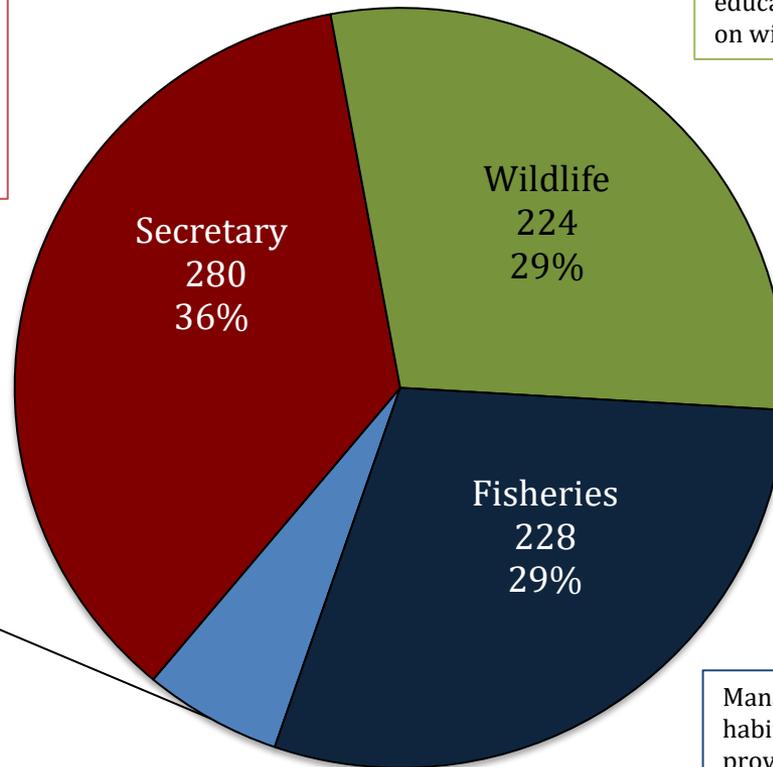


Wildlife and Fisheries

FY27 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.

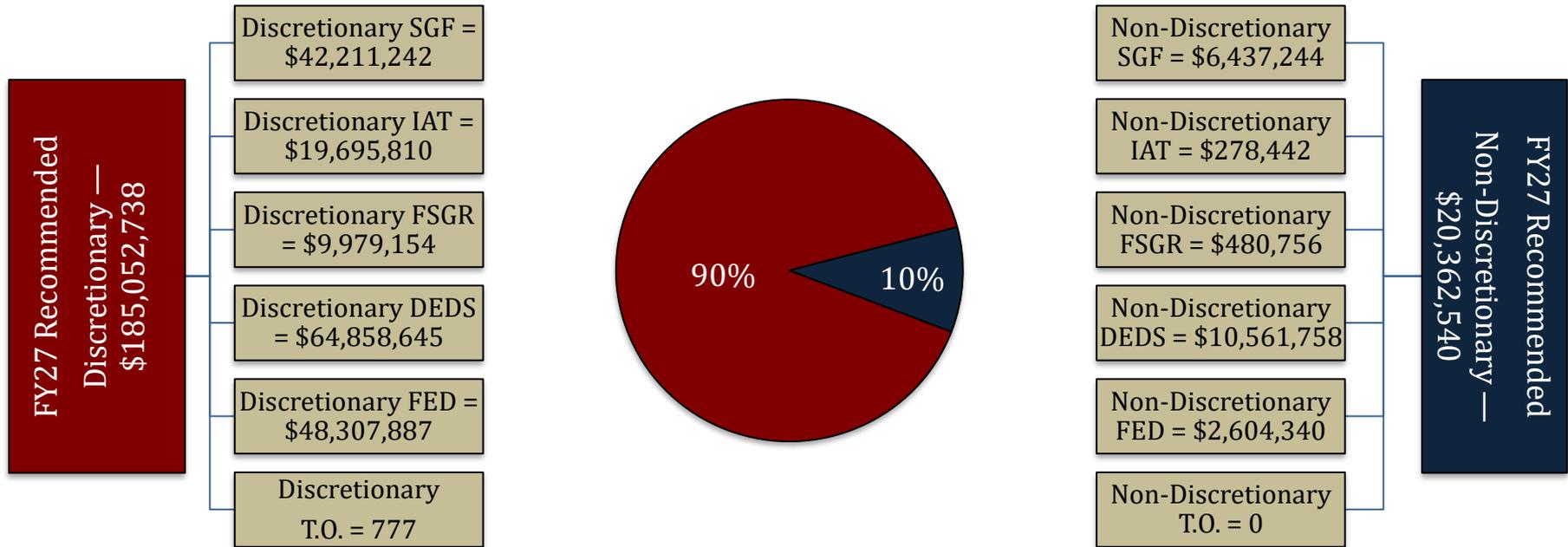
Manages living aquatic resources and their habitat, gives fishery industry support, and provides access to Louisiana aquatic resources for citizens and other beneficiaries of these sustainable resources. Activities of the Fisheries Program include Fisheries Management, and Fisheries Research and Extension.

Total Authorized Positions = 777



Wildlife and Fisheries

FY27 Discretionary/Non-Discretionary Comparison



Total Discretionary Funding by Office		
Management and Finance	\$ 22,845,703	12%
Administrative	\$ 3,031,389	2%
Enforcement	\$ 39,436,820	21%
Wildlife	\$ 60,864,835	33%
Fisheries	\$ 58,873,991	32%
Total Discretionary	\$ 185,052,738	100%

Total Non-Discretionary Funding by Type		
Required by the Constitution	\$ 13,967,351	69%
Needed for Debt Service	\$ -	0%
Due to Federal Mandate	\$ -	0%
Unavoidable Obligations	\$ 6,395,189	31%
Total Non-Discretionary	\$ 20,362,540	100%

Required by the Constitution = State Retirement Systems UAL
Unavoidable Obligations = Retirees Group Insurance;
Legislative Auditor Fees