The Governor’s Deficit Plan proposes a $713,594 reduction to Wildlife and Fisheries’ budget, which is 2.4% of their remaining state effort. WLF budget includes no State General Funds. Their operations are largely funded with the Conservation Fund.

The $555,790 reduction to Constitutionally and Statutorily Dedicated funds includes $548,540 from the Artificial Reef Fund and $7,250 from the Enforcement Emergency Situation Response Account. The Artificial Reef Fund is budgeted at $10.9 million and the Enforcement Emergency Situation Response Account is budgeted at $145,000.

Self-Generated Revenues, which are proposed to be reduced by $157,804, are budgeted at $5.3 million and come from British Petroleum for a fisheries monitoring program ($4.1 million) and a seafood safety testing program ($400,000) and from various commissions, federations, foundations, etc. ($500,000).

FY 17 Executive Budget

Source: Executive Budget Supporting Documents

* Existing Operating Budget as of December 1, 2015
** Governor’s Executive Budget Recommendation
The increase in Interagency Transfers (IAT) ($2.4 million) and the decrease in Fees & Self-Generated Revenues ($3.25 million) is largely due to a means of finance swap increasing IAT in anticipation of settlement program funding from the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority and decreasing British Petroleum monies used for seafood monitoring. The significant increases in the $8.7 million Statutory Dedications come from the Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge & Game Preserve Fund and the Conservation Fund.

Annualization of a current year state employee pay adjustment and a salary base adjustment accounted for the $1.2 million increase in salaries. Related benefits increased by $1.8 million due to retirement and health insurance adjustments.

The $8.5 million increase in acquisitions and major repairs is funded by federal Pittman Robertson Wildlife Restoration grants and from the constitutionally dedicated Conservation Fund. Monies will be used on maintenance and infrastructure improvements to the state's wildlife management areas.

Wildlife and Fisheries has 33 dedicated funds that total $116 million. These funds receive the vast majority of their revenues from fees and donations. The revenues that flow into these funds would not otherwise revert to the state general fund if not dedicated.