

Teleconference/Video Board Meeting

AGENDA

Board of Game and Inland Fisheries
7870 Villa Park Drive
Henrico, Virginia 23228

May 27, 2020
9:00 am

Call to Order and Welcome

1. Approval of the January 23, 2020 Board Meeting Minutes **Final Action**
2. Waterfowl Regulation Changes **Final Action**
3. FY21 Operating & Capital Budget Proposal **Final Action**
4. No Boating Zone- Seabird Conservation Initiative **Final Action**
5. Election of Board Chairman and Vice Chairman **Final Action**
6. Director's Report
7. Chair's Report
8. Next Meeting Date: Thursday, August 20, 2020
9. Adjournment

DRAFT Board Minutes

Board of Game and Inland Fisheries
7870 Villa Park Drive
Henrico, VA 23228

January 23, 2020
9:00 am

Present: Dr. Mamie Parker, **Chair, Vice Chair:** Mr. John Daniel, II; **Board Members:** Mr. G. K. Washington, Mr. Leon Boyd, Ms. Karen Terwilliger, Mr. John Daniel, Mr. Tom Sadler, Ms. Catherine Claiborne, Mr. Frank Adams, Mr. Douglas Dear, Mr. Brian Vincent; **Executive Director:** Mr. Ryan Brown; **Director's Working Group:** Mr. Gary Martel, Mr. Tom Guess, Dr. Gray Anderson, Dr. Mike Bednarski, Mr. Darin Moore, Mr. Lee Walker, Ms. Rebecca Lane, Major Bryan Young, Major Scott Naff, Ms. Paige Pearson

Ms. Kelci Block, Assistant Attorney General attended the Board Meeting.

The Chair opened the meeting at 9:00 am. The Chair welcomed everyone attending the meeting, wishing everyone a Happy New Year and Happy New Decade, the Chair noted for the record that a quorum was present, and announced there would be a Closed Session during the meeting.

The Chair called on Mr. Brian Vincent to read the Mission Statement and CPO Cramer to lead the pledge to the flag.

Recognition of Employees and Others:

The Chair called on Director Ryan Brown for Recognitions.

The Director explained how the Agenda was going to be handled today to accommodate our Guests who are here to speak. He explained that after the Recognition of Employees we would rearrange the Agenda to move the Hampton Roads Bridge Tunnel presentation to the front of the Agenda and then hear the comments of our guests.

The Director called on Dr. Gray Anderson to introduce Mr. Gary Norman as the Wildlife Biologist of the Year.

Dr. Anderson also introduced Mr. Toby McClanahan as the Lands and Access Specialist of the Year.

The Director called on Dr. Mike Bednarski to introduce Mr. Tim Lane as the Fish Biologist of the Year.

The Director called on Ms. Rebecca Lane who introduced the Human Resources Department,

Mr. Lester Brantley, Human Resources Assistant Director
Ms. Deanna Wood, Human Resources Generalist
Ms. Lisa Fore, Human Resources Assistant
Mr. Bill Brenzovich, Human Resource Special Project Consultant
Mr. Ray Hudgins, Human Resources Recruiter and Employee Engagement Coordinator
Mr. Christian Spencer, Human Resource Consultant
Mr. Josue Rodriguez, Human Resources Generalist

The Director introduced Mr. Rick Perry who is working in the Law Enforcement Division working on Career Track and Change of Command.

Approval of the October 24, 2019 Board Meeting Minutes:

The minutes of the October 24, 2019 minutes have been distributed and posted to the website for review. The Chair called for a motion to approve the minutes. Ms. Terwilliger made a motion to approve the October 24, 2019 Board minutes as submitted. It was seconded by Mr. Daniel.
Ayes: Parker, Washington, Boyd, Terwilliger, Daniel, Claiborne, Vincent, Dear, Sadler, Adams

Public Comments (Non-Agenda Items): The Chairwoman called for Public Comments Non-Agenda Items:

- Judge Charlton from Charlotte Court House, VA spoke regarding Fox Trial
- Robert Robbins from Coeburn, VA spoke regarding Elk Management Zone

** The Chair and the Director rearranged the Agenda and moved the Hampton Roads Bridge Tunnel Feasibility Study to Public Comments section of the Agenda

The Chair called on Ms. Becky Gwynn to present the HRBT Feasibility Study.

After discussion and comments, the Chair called the Public to the podium to make comments.

- Michael Parr of Washington, DC spoke regarding HRBT Bird Colony
- Terri Cuthriell of Smithfield, VA spoke regarding HRBT Seabirds
- Roberta Kellam of Franktown, VA spoke regarding the HRBT Birds
- Kim Harrell of Richmond, VA spoke regarding the HRBT Bird Colony
- John Roberts of Richmond, VA spoke regarding the South Island
- Laura Neale of Fairfield, VA spoke regarding the Hampton Roads Bridge Tunnel
- Guy Babineau of Earlysville, VA spoke regarding the HRBT
- Barbara Slatcher of Richmond, VA spoke regarding the Birds at Hampton Roads
- Teta Kain of Gloucester, VA spoke regarding the Birds nesting on HRBT South Island

- Wendy Ealding of Midlothian, VA spoke regarding the Hampton Roads Bridge tunnel Tern Colony
- Julie Kacmarcik of Chester, VA spoke regarding the HRBT
- Ross Furbush of Alexandria, VA spoke regarding the Hampton Roads Bridge – Terns
- Cathy Martens of Charlottesville, VA spoke regarding the Save the Terns
- Aylett Lipford of Richmond, VA spoke regarding the HRBT Seabirds
- Robert Ake of Norfolk, VA spoke regarding the HRBT bird nesting
- Nancy Archer of Richmond, VA spoke regarding the HRBT impact on Birds
- Bill Leighty of Richmond, VA spoke regarding the HRBT Bird issue
-

Director Brown thanked all the speakers for coming to our Board meeting today and thanked them for their professionalism at the podium.

The Chair thanked all the speakers and read a portion of the Hampton Roads Bridge Tunnel Resolution to the HRBT attendees to show DGIF's commitment

- Be it resolved that the Board of Game and Inland Fisheries supports the staff's efforts to collaborate with the Virginia Department of Transportation and find solutions that allow the Hampton Roads Bridge-Tunnel expansion to continue while protecting these important to the greatest extent possible;

Be it also resolved that the Board of Game and Inland Fisheries conveys its intention via this resolution to the Secretaries of Natural Resources and Transportation.

Adopted the 21st day of March 2019

The Chair called for Break at 10:55 am

The Chair resumed the meeting at 11:05 am

Committee Meeting Reports:

Law Enforcement Committee: The Chair called on Mr. G. K. Washington to report on the Law Enforcement Committee.

Mr. Washington reported that the First Law Enforcement Committee met on Wednesday, January 22, 2020 and had an Update from Lt. Ham and Mr. Bobby Mawyer on the Accreditation process and heard updates from Major Naff on operations and from Major Bryan Young on Administration.

After discussion and comments, the Chair thanked Mr. Washington for his Committee update.

The Chair requested a have a Resolution prepared for the march 19, 2020 meeting on Accrediation.

Wildlife and Boat Committee: The Chair called on Mr. Leon Boyd to report on the Wildlife and Boat committee meeting.

Mr. Boyd reported that the Wildlife and Boat Committee met on Wednesday, January 22, 2020. The committee had a presentation from the Blue Ridge PRISM and had presentations on Wood Turtle Management Plan and Fish Habitat Improvements and the Wild Trout Management Plan. The Waterfowl Regulation Changes were presented and voted on, and updates on Wildlife Division and Fish Division were given.

Mr. Boyd called on Dr. Gray Anderson to give a CWD Update,

Mr. Boyd called on Ms. Becky Gwynn for a Relevancy Roadmap Update.

Mr. Boyd called on Dr. Gary Costanzo to present the Waterfowl Regulation Changes to the Board

After discussion and comments, the Chair thanked Dr. Anderson, Ms. Gwynn, and Dr. Costanzo for their updates and presentations.

The Chair called for a motion, Mr. Boyd made a motion, Madame Chair, I move that the Full board approve the 2020-2021 Migratory Game Bird Season and Bag Limit recommendations as presented by staff. It was seconded by Mr. Daniel. Ayes: Parker, Washington, Boyd, Terwilliger, Daniel, Claiborne, Vincent, Dear, Sadler, Adams

Finance, Audit, & Compliance: The Chair reported on the Finance, Audit, and Compliance Committee meeting.

Dr. Parker reported that the Finance, Audit, and Compliance committee met on Wednesday, January 22, 2020 and called on Mr. Darin Moore for a Finance Report.

Mr. Moore presented the FY20 Second Quarter Finance Report.

After discussion and comments, the Chair thanked Mr. Moore for his report.

Education, Planning, and Outreach Committee: The Chair called on Ms. Karen Terwilliger to report on the Education, Planning, and Outreach Committee.

Mr. Lee Walker introduced 2 new employees, Ms. Molly Kirk as the New Creative Content Manager and Ms. Lindsay Kagalis as the Special Events Coordinator.

Ms. Terwilliger reported that the Education, Planning, and Outreach Committee met on Wednesday, January 22, 2020 and heard updates on 2019 RBFF and R 3, an update on Recreational Outdoor Plan/Relevancy Roadmap and the DGIF Website.

The Director introduced Mr. George Braxton, the Diversity and Inclusion Officer who presented his Diversity and Inclusion First 90 Day Plan.

After discussion and comments, the Chair thanked Mr. Braxton for his report.

Closed Session

The Chair called on Mr. Daniel for the reading of the Closed Session Motion.

*Closed Meeting Motion
January 23, 2020*

Madam Chair,

I move that the Board go into a closed meeting pursuant to:

(1) Section 2.2-3711.A.3 of the Code of Virginia for discussion or consideration of the acquisition of real property for a public purpose, or of the disposition of publicly held real property, where discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the Board, with respect to:

(i) Real property located in: Accomack, Northampton, and Washington Counties

And Finally, pursuant to Section 2.2-3711.A.1 of the Code of Virginia for discussion or consideration of employment, assignment, appointment, promotion, performance, demotion, salaries, disciplining, or resignation of specific public officers, appointees, or employees of the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries specifically regarding:

(i) The performance of the Director.

This closed meeting will be attended only by members of the Board. However, pursuant to Section 2.2-3712(F), the Board requests legal counsel, the Department Executive Director, the Deputy Director, the Assistant Chief Wildlife Resources Division, Regional Manager for DGIF Region 1, and the Real Property Manager as it believes their presence will reasonably aid the Board in its consideration of topics that are the subject of the meeting.

Ms. Claiborne seconded the motion, Ayes: Parker, Claiborne, Daniel, Terwilliger, Vincent, Washington, Boyd, Dear, Sadler, Adams

The Board went into Closed Session at 12:45 pm

The Board meeting reconvened at 3:25 pm

The Chair called on Ms. Claiborne for the reading of the Certification of Closed Meeting.

*Certification of Closed Meeting
January 23, 2020*

WHEREAS, the Board of Game and Inland Fisheries conducted a closed meeting on this date pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote and in accordance with the provisions of the Virginia Freedom Information Act; and

WHEREAS, Section 2.2-3712.D of the Code requires a certification by this Board that such closed meeting was conducted in conformity with Virginia law;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Game and Inland Fisheries hereby certifies that, to the best of each member's knowledge, only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements by Virginia law were discussed in the closed meeting to which this certification resolution applies, and only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the closed meeting were heard, discussed or considered by the Board.

It was seconded by Mr. Daniel. Ayes: Claiborne, Daniel, Terwilliger, Vincent, Washington, Boyd, Parker, Dear, Sadler, Adams

The Board Secretary conducted the following voice roll call vote:

Mrs. Claiborne	Aye	Mr. Washington	Aye
Mr. Daniel	Aye	Mr. Boyd	Aye
Mr. Sadler	Aye	Dr. Parker	Aye
Mr. Dear	Aye	Mr. Vincent	Aye
Mr. Adams	Aye	Ms. Terwilliger	Aye

**The Chair called on Mr. Dear for a motion. Madame Chair, I move that the Board authorize the Director to acquire approximately 8,654+ acres of land in Accomack and Northampton Counties, Virginia, and such authorization shall be according to state procedures. It was seconded by Mr. Boyd. Ayes: Claiborne, Daniel, Vincent, Washington, Boyd, Parker, Dear, Sadler, Adams, Terwilliger

** The Chair called on Ms. Claiborne for a motion. Madame Chair, I move that the Board authorized the Director to proceed to acquire approximately 113+ acres of land in Washington County, Virginia, and such authorization shall be according to state procedures. It was seconded by Mr. Washington. Ayes: Claiborne, Daniel, Vincent, Washington, Boyd, Parker, Dear, Sadler, Adams, Terwilliger

Director's Report: The Chair called on Executive Director Ryan Brown for his report.

The Director reported on:

- Director called on Mr. Tom Guess, Legislative and Policy Analyst to give a Legislative update
- The Director gave the Harvest update – Harvested 2,083 Bears, 178,675 Deer, 1,773 Turkeys
- The first year of Electronic checking of Bears was exceptionally well received
- The Director signed an MOU with the Ward Burton Foundation to help fund the cost of our Canine Program

Chair Report: The Chair thanked Staff for their work and presentations. The Chair announced the next Board Meeting will be Thursday, March 19, 2020 at 9:00 am and adjourned the meeting at 3:45 pm.

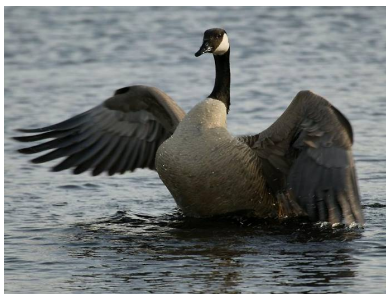
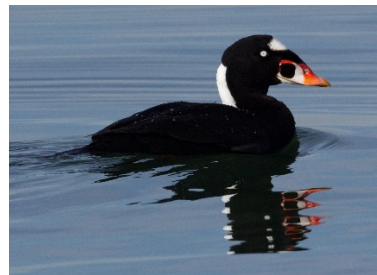
Respectfully submitted,

Frances Boswell

/s/

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF GAME AND INLAND FISHERIES

2020-2021 MIGRATORY GAME BIRD HUNTING SEASONS – FEDERAL FRAMEWORKS AND STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS



Prepared by Wildlife Resources Division
May 2020

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF GAME AND INLAND FISHERIES

PRELIMINARY FEDERAL FRAMEWORKS AND STAFF PROPOSALS FOR 2020-21
MIGRATORY GAMEBIRD SEASON DATES AND BAG LIMITS

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Doves

Mourning Dove Background Information and Population Status

There are three dove management units (or flyways) across the country, including the Eastern (EMU), Central (CMU) and Western (WMU) Management Units. Virginia is in the EMU.

- Population trends in the EMU based on the Breeding Bird Survey (BBS):
10-yr (2009-2018): declining population trend.
Long term (1966-2018): increasing population trend.
- Dove Banding Study – Annual program (since 2003) to leg-band over 500 doves annually in VA, and 33,000 nationwide. Data provides estimates of movements, survival and harvest rates that are used to develop hunting regulations.
- Harvest Strategy: New Harvest Strategy adopted in 2014 allowed an increase from 70 to 90 days of hunting for doves. Daily bag limit remains at 15 birds (up from 12 in 2009).
- Data from HIP (past 3-yr avg.): Hunters = 16,400 Harvest = 225,467

Recent Seasons

<u>Year</u>	<u>Season Dates (all 70 days until extended to 90 days in 2014-15)</u>		
2019-2020	Sept. 2 – Oct. 27	Nov. 27 – Dec. 4	Dec. 24 – Jan. 18
2018-2019	Sept. 1 – Oct. 28	Nov. 21 – Nov. 28	Dec. 22 – Jan. 14
2017-2018	Sept. 2 – Oct. 29	Nov. 22 – Nov. 29	Dec. 23 – Jan. 15
2016-2017	Sept. 3 – Oct. 30	Nov. 19 – Nov. 27	Dec. 24 – Jan. 15
2015-2016	Sept. 5 – Nov. 1	Nov. 21 – Nov. 29	Dec. 24 – Jan. 15
2014-2015	Sept. 1 – Oct. 31	Nov. 22 – Nov. 30	Dec. 27 – Jan. 15
2013-2014	Sept. 2 – Oct. 14	Oct. 19 – Nov. 2	Dec. 31 – Jan. 11
2012-2013	Sept. 1 – Oct. 13	Oct. 17 – Oct. 27	Dec. 28 – Jan. 12
2011-2012	Sept. 3 – Oct. 10	Oct. 25 – Nov. 5	Dec. 26 - Jan. 14
2010-2011	Sept. 4 – Oct. 11	Oct. 20 – Nov. 6	Dec. 27 – Jan. 8
2009-2010	Sept. 5 - 26	Oct. 7 – Nov. 7	Dec. 25 – Jan. 9
2008-2009	Sept. 1 - 27	Oct. 4 – Oct. 31	Dec. 27 – Jan. 10
2007-2008	Sept. 1 – 29	Oct. 5 – Oct 27	Dec. 26 – Jan. 12
2006-2007	Sept. 2 – 23	Oct. 7 – Nov. 4	Dec. 28 – Jan. 15
2005-2006	Sept. 3 – 24	Oct. 8 – Nov. 5	Dec. 27 – Jan. 14
2004-2005	Sept. 4 – 25	Oct. 9 – Nov. 6	Dec. 28 – Jan. 15
2003-2004	Sept. 1 – 27	Oct. 8 – Nov. 8	Dec. 31 – Jan. 10
2002-2003	Sept. 2 - 28	Oct. 9 – Nov. 9	Jan. 1 – Jan. 11
2001-2002	Sept. 1 - 29	Oct 13 – Nov. 10	Dec. 29 – Jan. 9
2000-2001	Sept. 2 – 30	Oct 7 – Nov. 4	Dec. 30 – Jan. 10
1999-2000	Sept. 4 – 25	Oct. 2 – Nov. 6	Dec. 25 – Jan. 5
1998-1999	Sept. 5 - 26	Oct. 3 – Nov. 3	Dec. 25 – Jan. 9
1997-1998	Sept. 1 – 27	Oct. 4 – Nov. 1	Dec. 24 – Jan. 6
1996-1997	Sept. 2 - 28	Oct. 4 - Nov. 2	Dec. 23 - Jan. 4
1995-1996	Sept. 2 - 30	Oct. 2 - Oct. 31	Dec. 23 - Jan. 2

DOVE

FEDERAL FRAMEWORKS

OUTSIDE DATES: September 1, 2020 - January 31, 2021
Hunting dates may run consecutively or be split into no more than three (3) segments.

SEASON LENGTH: Not more than 90 days.

BAG LIMIT: 15 daily and 45 in possession. Daily bag limit can be composed of mourning doves and white-winged doves, singly or in combination

SHOOTING HOURS: Between ½ hour before sunrise and sunset daily (State may select ½ day shooting in any segment).

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

SEASON DATES: September 5 - October 28 (54 days)
November 21 - November 29 (9 days)
December 24 - January 19 (27 days)

SHOOTING HOURS: September 5 Noon until sunset
September 6 – October 28 ½ hr before sunrise to sunset.
November 21 – November 29 ½ hr before sunrise to sunset.
December 24 - January 19 ½ hr before sunrise to sunset.

BAG LIMIT: 15 daily and 45 in possession. Composed of mourning doves and white-winged doves, singly or in combination

Rails

Background Information and Population Status

- **Harvest** – Comprised predominantly of clapper rails (85%), some sora (14%), and small number of Virginia rails taken. Clappers are mostly local VA birds, some are migrants from NJ, NY, and other salt marsh areas.
- **Nesting** - Clapper rails nest from May through June, with re-nesting in July/August. Late nesting rails have broods that do not reach flight stage until August or September. This occurs in years when 1st nests are flooded by spring storms/tides and re-nests contribute significantly to production. Therefore, we generally wait until the second week of September to open the hunting season. The key to setting the season is to bracket the greatest number of high tides possible.
- **Harvest Data** - Avg. No. hunters = 280, Avg. Harvest = 3,100 (HIP, past 5-yr avg.)

Past Seasons

<u>Year</u>	<u>Season Dates (all 70 days)</u>	
2019	Sept. 7 – Nov. 15	
2018	Sept. 8 - Nov. 16	
2017	Sept. 9 – Nov. 17	
2016	Sept. 10 - Nov. 18	
2015	Sept. 8 - Nov. 16	
2014	Sept. 8 – Nov. 16	
2013	Sept. 7 - 28	Sept. 30 – Nov. 16
2012	Sept. 8 – 29	Oct. 1 – Nov. 17
2011	Sept. 10 – Oct. 1	Oct. 3 – Nov. 19
2010	Sept. 8 – Oct. 2	Oct. 4 – Nov. 17
2009	Sept. 8 – Oct. 3	Oct. 5 – Nov. 17
2008	Sept. 10 – Nov. 18	
2007	Sept. 10 – Nov. 17	
2006	Sept. 8 – Nov. 16	
2005	Sept. 12 – Nov. 19	
2004	Sept. 13 – Nov. 20	
2003	Sept. 10 – Nov. 18	
2002	Sept. 9 - Nov. 16	
2001	Sept. 11 – Nov. 19	
2000	Sept. 13 – Oct. 2	Oct. 11 – Nov. 29
1999	Sept. 10 – Oct. 12	Oct. 22 – Nov. 27
1998	Sept. 9 – Oct. 24	Nov. 2 – Nov. 25
1997	Sept. 15 - 27	Oct. 8 - Dec. 3
1996	Sept. 16 – Oct. 17	Oct. 24 - Nov. 30
1995	Sept. 11 – Oct. 14	Oct. 21 – Nov.25

RAILS (Clapper, King, Sora, Virginia)

FEDERAL FRAMEWORKS

OUTSIDE DATES: September 1, 2020 - January 31, 2021

SEASON LENGTH: 70 days, straight or 2 segments.

BAG LIMIT: Clapper/King 15 daily, 45 possession
Sora/Virginia 25 daily, 75 possession

SHOOTING HOURS: ½ hour before sunrise until sunset daily

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

SEASON DATES: September 9 - November 17 (70 days)

BAG LIMIT: Clapper/King: 15 - counted together daily, 45 poss.
Sora/Virginia: 25 - counted together daily, 75 poss.

SHOOTING HOURS: ½ hour before sunrise until sunset

NOTES: - This recommendation provides 30 days of 3-ft or greater lunar tides.
- Non-Toxic shot is required for Rail and Snipe hunting in Virginia.

GALLINULE AND MOORHEN

FEDERAL FRAMEWORKS

OUTSIDE DATES: September 1, 2020 - January 31, 2021

SEASON LENGTH: 70 days, straight or 2 segments.

BAG LIMIT: 15 daily, 45 in possession (singly or in the aggregate)

SHOOTING HOURS: ½ hour before sunrise until sunset daily

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

SEASON DATES: September 9 - November 17 (70 days)

BAG LIMIT: 15 daily, 45 in possession (singly or in the aggregate)

SHOOTING HOURS: ½ hour before sunrise until sunset

Woodcock

Background Information and Population Status

- Harvest Strategy includes 3 regulatory options (Liberal, Moderate and Restrictive). Annual regulation based on the 3-year mean of the call count survey. For 2020-21, Harvest Strategy calls for Moderate Regulation (45 days/3 birds).
- Singing-ground survey (SGS) in Eastern Management Region:
 - 1 year trend (2017-2018): stable
 - 10 year trend (2009-2018): 0.90% decline per year.
 - Long-term (1966-2018): 1.08 % decline per year.
- The 2018 recruitment index for the U.S. portion of the Eastern Region (1.71 jv/ad female) was 28% above the 2017 index and 5.6% above the long-term index.
- Research suggests that hunting has little effect on population trend, but habitat is limiting.
- Virginia is cooperating in a Flyway-wide study of woodcock movements and habitat use. From 2018-2021, GPS transmitters attached to woodcock are providing updated information on migration routes and timing that is being used to establish current hunting seasons.
- In Virginia, we split the season into two segments to provide some opportunity for early hunting in western areas, and later hunting in central and eastern areas.
Avg. No. hunters = 1,700 Avg. Harvest = 2,520 (HIP, past 5-year avg.)

Recent Seasons (bag limit has been 3 birds)

<u>Year</u>	<u>Season Dates</u>		<u>Days</u>
2019-2020	Nov. 20 – Dec. 8	Dec. 21 – Jan. 15	45
2018-2019	Oct. 27 – Nov. 2	Dec. 8 – Jan. 14	45
2017-2018	Nov. 20 – Dec. 8	Dec. 21 – Jan. 15	45
2016-2017	Oct. 29 – Nov. 4	Dec. 9 – Jan. 15	45
2015-2016	Nov. 23 – Dec. 5	Dec. 15 – Jan. 15	45
2014-2015	Nov. 24 – Dec. 6	Dec. 15 – Jan. 15	45
2013-2014	Oct. 26 – Nov. 1	Dec. 5 – Jan. 11	45
2012-2013	Oct. 27 – Nov. 2	Dec. 6 – Jan. 12	45
2011-2012	Oct. 29 – Nov. 12	Dec. 16 – Jan. 14	45
2010-2011	Oct. 30 - Nov. 13	Dec. 27 – Jan. 10	30
2009-2010	Nov. 7 – 21	Dec. 26 – Jan. 9	30
2008-2009	Nov. 8 – 22	Dec. 20 – Jan 3	30
2007-2008	Oct. 27 – Nov. 10	Dec. 22 – Jan. 5	30
2006-2007	Nov. 4 – 18	Dec. 23 – Jan. 6	30
2005-2006	Nov. 12 – 26	Dec.17 – Dec 31	30
2004-2005	Oct. 30 – Nov. 13	Dec.18 – Jan. 1	30
2003-2004	Nov. 1 – 15	Dec. 20 – Jan. 3	30
2002-2003	Nov. 2 – 16	Dec. 21 - Jan. 4	30
2001-2002	Nov. 3 - 17	Dec. 22 - Jan. 5	30
2000-2001	Nov. 4 - 18	Dec. 23 - Jan. 6	30
1999-2000	Oct. 30 - Nov. 13	Dec. 18 - Jan. 1	30
1998-1999	Oct. 31 - Nov. 14	Dec. 19 - Jan. 2	30
1997-1998	Nov. 1 - Nov. 15	Dec. 20 - Jan. 3	30

WOODCOCK

FEDERAL FRAMEWORKS

OUTSIDE DATES: October 1, 2020 - January 31, 2021

SEASON LENGTH: 45 days, straight or 2 segments.

BAG LIMIT: 3 daily, 9 in possession.

SHOOTING HOURS: ½ hour before sunrise until sunset daily.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

SEASON DATES: November 7 – November 30 (24 days)
December 24 – January 13 (21 days)

BAG LIMIT: 3 daily, 9 in possession

SHOOTING HOURS: ½ hour before sunrise until sunset

Snipe

Background Information

- Season generally set to overlap duck season. There are relatively few snipe hunters in VA and most snipe are taken opportunistically by other migratory bird hunters.
- Harvest Data (HIP, past 5-yr avg.): No. hunters = 260, Harvest = 750

Recent Seasons

<u>Year</u>	<u>Season Dates (all 107 days)</u>	
2019-2020	Oct. 11 – Oct. 14	Oct. 21 – Jan. 31
2018-2019	Oct. 5 – Oct. 8	Oct. 21 – Jan. 31
2017-2018	Oct. 6 – Oct. 9	Oct. 21 – Jan. 31
2016-2017	Oct. 7 – Oct. 10	Oct. 21 – Jan. 31
2015-2016	Oct. 9 – Oct. 12	Oct. 21 – Jan. 31
2014-2015	Oct. 10 – Oct. 13	Oct. 21 – Jan. 31
2013-2014	Oct. 11 – Oct. 14	Oct. 22 – Jan. 31
2012-2013	Oct. 4 – Oct. 8	Oct. 22 - Jan. 31
2011-2012	Oct. 6 – Oct. 10	Oct. 22 – Jan. 31
2010-2011	Oct. 7 – Oct. 11	Oct. 22 – Jan. 31
2009-2010	Oct. 8 – Oct. 12	Oct. 21 – Jan. 30
2008-2009	Oct. 9 – Oct. 13	Oct. 22 – Jan.31
2007-2008	Oct 4 – Oct. 8	Oct. 22 – Jan. 31
2006-2007	Oct 4 – Oct. 9	Oct. 23 – Jan. 31
2005-2006	Oct 5 – Oct.10	Oct. 24 – Jan. 31
2004-2005	Oct 7 – Oct 11	Oct. 22 – Jan. 31
2003-2004	Oct. 8 – Oct 11	Oct. 21 – Jan. 31
2002-2003	Oct 9 – Oct 12	Oct. 21 – Jan. 31
2001-2002	Oct. 10 - Oct. 13	Oct. 22 - Jan. 31
2000-2001	Oct. 11 - Oct. 14	Oct. 21 - Jan. 31
1999-2000	Oct. 6 - Oct. 9	Oct. 21 - Jan. 31
1998-1999	Oct. 7 - Oct. 10	Oct. 20 - Jan. 30
1997-1998	Oct. 8 - Oct. 11	Oct. 21 - Jan. 31
1996-1997	Oct. 9 - Oct. 12	Oct. 21 - Jan. 31
1995-1996	Oct. 11 - Oct. 14	Oct. 21 - Jan. 31

SNIFE

FEDERAL FRAMEWORKS

OUTSIDE DATES: September 1, 2020 - January 31, 2021

SEASON LENGTH: 107 days, straight or 2 segments

BAG LIMIT: 8 daily, 24 possession

SHOOTING HOURS: ½ hour before sunrise until sunset

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

SEASON DATES: October 9 - October 12 (4 days)
October 21 - January 31 (103 days)

BAG LIMIT: 8 daily, 24 in possession

SHOOTING HOURS: ½ hour before sunrise until sunset

SEPTEMBER TEAL SEASON FACT SHEET - 2020

- Special teal seasons were initiated in late 1960's to provide harvest opportunities on blue-winged and green-winged teal. When the blue-winged teal breeding population (BPOP) is above 3.3 million, a 9-day season can be offered. If the BPOP exceeds 4.7 million, a 16-day season can be offered.
- Blue-winged teal are one of the earliest migrants. Many pass through Virginia from late August through October, prior to the opening of the late duck season.
- Green-winged teal are also early migrants and arrive in September and October. However, some Green-wings remain through the winter depending on weather conditions.
- Virginia has held a special September teal season since 1999 (see dates listed below). The season was initially held only in the area east of I-95 because there are greater numbers of teal and teal hunters in the coastal plain. Even in the coastal plain, teal are not widespread, and the harvest has been relatively small. The season was expanded in 2011 to provide some teal hunting opportunity in the area west of I-95.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Season Dates</u> <u>East of I-95</u>	<u>Season Dates</u> <u>West of I-95</u>
2019	Sept. 17 – 30	Sept. 21 - 30
2018	Sept. 17 – 30	Sept. 21 - 30
2017	Sept. 16 – 30	Sept. 21 - 30
2016	Sept. 17 – 30	Sept. 21 - 30
2015	Sept. 17 – 30	Sept. 21 - 30
2014	Sept. 17 – 30	Sept. 22 - 30
2013	Sept. 16 – 30	Sept. 23 - 30
2012	Sept. 17 – 29	Sept. 24 - 29
2011	Sept. 19 – 30	Sept. 26 - 30
2010	Sept. 20 – 30	na
2009	Sept. 21 – 30	na
2008	Sept. 20 – 30	na
2007	Sept. 17 – 26	na
2006	Sept. 15 – 25	na
2005	Sept. 16 – 24	na
2004	Sept. 16 – 25	na
2003	Sept. 13 – 23	na
2002	Sept. 14 – 24	na
2001	Sept. 15 – 25	na
2000	Sept. 14 – 23	na
1999	Sept. 16 – 25	na

Average Annual Harvest: 670 teal

SEPTEMBER TEAL SEASON

FEDERAL FRAMEWORKS

OUTSIDE DATES: September 1 – September 30, 2020

SEASON LENGTH: Up to 16 days

BAG LIMIT: 6 daily, 18 in possession (Blue-winged and Green-winged teal only)

SHOOTING HOURS: ½ hour before sunrise to sunset

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

SEASON DATES: September 17 – September 30 (14 days)
HUNT AREA: East of I – 95

September 21 – September 30 (10 days)
HUNT AREA: West of I – 95

BAG LIMIT: 6 daily, 18 in possession (Blue-winged and Green-winged teal only).

SHOOTING HOURS: ½ hour before sunrise to sunset

FACT SHEET - Waterfowl Hunters and Harvests - 2020

- Liberal duck seasons (60 days, 6 bird bag limit) and resident goose seasons have resulted in high waterfowl harvests in Virginia during the past ten years. Harvest has averaged ~137,300 ducks and ~58,600 Canada geese from 2016-2018, compared to 114,770 ducks and 25,000 geese during the 1990's. The long season length and liberal bags offer greater opportunity and a greater cumulative harvest over the course of the season.
- Waterfowl hunter numbers in Virginia have been generally stable since the late 1990's. Since 1999, the Harvest Information Program (HIP) has been used to estimate hunter effort and harvest. The average number of duck and goose hunters over the past 3 years, as measured by HIP, was 16,800 and 14,600 respectively.
- Conditions during the 2018-2019 season were below average for waterfowl hunting. Mild temperatures throughout the U.S. resulted in fewer birds in southern wintering areas and less than ideal waterfowl hunting conditions. As a result, the 2018-2019 duck harvest was lower than the previous year. The Canada goose harvest was significantly lower due to the mild conditions during the hunting season and very poor production in the 2018 breeding season.
- The total estimated duck harvest during the 2018-2019 season in Virginia (140,700) was lower than the previous year (145,200) but still above the past 3-year average (137,300).
- During the 2018-2019 season, mallards were the most commonly harvested duck in Virginia, followed by bufflehead and scoters, which compromised the top 3 harvested species. The mallard harvest in Virginia (37,900) decreased from 2017-2018, and was lower than the past 3-year average (40,100).
- The Canada goose harvest in Virginia in 2018-2019 (31,427) was less than the previous season (60,000) and well below the 3-year average (58,600).

FACT SHEET - The Status of Ducks - 2020

Mid-Continent Areas: Annual precipitation is the most important factor influencing the quantity and quality of nesting and brood rearing habitat for prairie-nesting birds. The number of ponds counted during the USFWS May breeding waterfowl survey is used as an index for assessing waterfowl nesting habitat. In 2019, the May pond count (4.9 million) was 5% below last year's count (5.2 million), and below the long-term average (5.2 million).

The total duck breeding population (BPOP) estimate for the mid-continent area this year is 38.9 million ducks. This estimate is 6% lower than last year's estimate of 41.2 million ducks, but still 10% higher than the long-term average (1955-2018). The Breeding population estimates (BPOP), along with the percent change from last year and the long-term average, are presented below for the 10 most common species.

Species	2019 BPOP	% Change from 2018	% Change from Long-Term Avg.
Mallard	9.4 million	+2%	+19%
Blue-winged Teal	5.4 million	-16%	+6%
Green-winged Teal	3.2 million	4%	+47%
Gadwall	3.3 million	+13%	+61%
Northern Shoveler	3.6 million	-13%	+39%
Northern Pintail	2.3 million	-4%	-42%
American Wigeon	2.8 million	0%	+8%
Redhead	732,000	-27%	0%
Scaup	3.6 million	-10%	-28%
Canvasback	652,000	-5%	+10%
Total Ducks	38.9 million	-6%	+10%

Eastern Breeding Areas: More pertinent to waterfowl harvests in Virginia are the number of ducks counted in the eastern survey area. Breeding population estimates for the 6 most common species surveyed in the eastern survey area were very similar to the 2018 estimates. The estimated abundance of mallards was 1 million which was similar to last year's estimate but 16% below the long-term average. Black ducks (729,000) were similar to last year's estimate but also 16% lower than the long-term average. Other abundant species counted in the eastern survey area were, Ring-necked ducks (700,000), Goldeneyes (500,000) and Green-winged teal (300,000).

Virginia: Conditions in Virginia during the spring of 2019 were generally good with wet but not flooded conditions, and normal wetland habitats.

- The breeding pair estimate for Mallards (28,000) increased significantly from the previous year's estimate (7,913). The wood duck breeding pair estimate (8,308) was lower than the 2018 estimate (14,237), and the Canada goose breeding pair estimate (46,254) was 13% lower than the previous year's estimate.

Mallard Bag Limit in the Atlantic Flyway

The mallard has been one of the most abundant duck species in eastern North America. However, in the past 20 years, “eastern” mallards have been on the decline. Surveys conducted since 1988 throughout eastern Canada and the northeastern U.S. have provided reliable annual estimates of the breeding population size of eastern mallards. These surveys indicate that mallard numbers have decreased steadily in the northeastern U.S., declining by about 38% since 1998. Mallard numbers in Eastern Canada have been relatively stable, but overall, the breeding mallard population in eastern North America is declining (Figure 1). About 60% of the mallards harvested in Atlantic Flyway states, and around 80% of those harvested in Virginia, are derived from the northeastern US. There has also been a significant decline in the mallard harvest in the Atlantic Flyway (around 40%, Figure 2), a direct result of this population decline.

Figure 1. Mallard breeding population in eastern North America

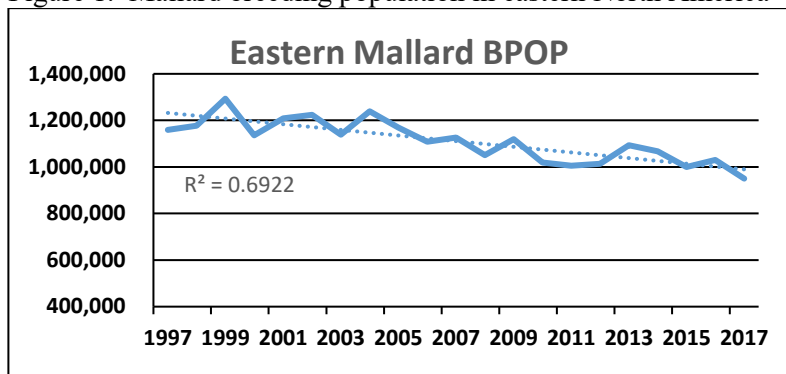
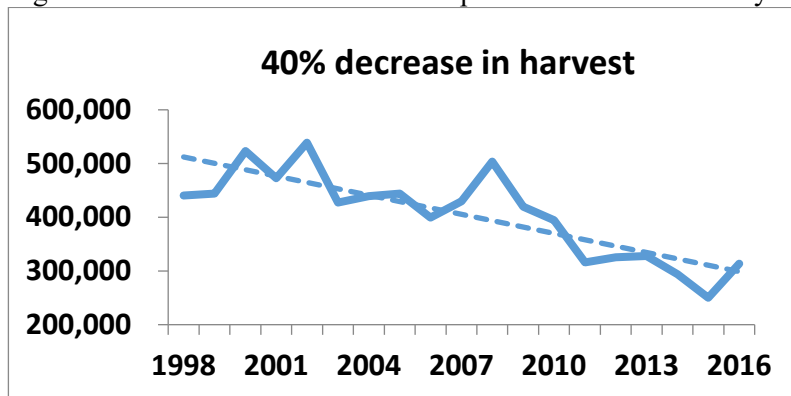


Figure 2. Mallard Harvest in the U.S. portion of the Atlantic Flyway



Population models suggested that cutting the daily bag limit in half would reduce the harvest by 25%, and would achieve a sustainable harvest level based on the current population. Therefore, last year (2019-20 season) the Atlantic Flyway and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service reduced the bag limit from 4 to 2 mallards (only 1 hen) in the Atlantic Flyway. This reduction will remain in effect for this year (2020-21). In addition, a new harvest strategy is being developed that will help guide future hunting season regulations based on current mallard population dynamics.

YOUTH and VETERANS WATERFOWL DAYS

Guidelines for the Youth Days and Veterans Days include:

1. States may select 2 days per duck-hunting zone, designated as "Youth Waterfowl Hunting Days," in addition to their regular duck seasons. States may also select 2 days per duck-hunting zone designated as "Veterans Waterfowl Hunting Days" in addition to their regular duck seasons. The Youth and Veterans days could be combined and held on the same day or could be held separately.
2. Youth Days must be held outside of any regular duck season on a weekend, holidays, or other non-school days when youth hunters would have the maximum opportunity to participate.
3. Youth and Veterans Days could be held up to 14 days before or after any regular duck season frameworks or within any split of a regular duck season.
4. The daily bag limit is the same as that allowed in the regular season and includes ducks, mergansers, coots, moorhens, gallinules, 1 Canada geese (except in Canada Goose Zones where the bag limit is higher), and 1 tundra swan (if the hunter possesses a tundra swan permit). Flyway species restrictions remain in effect.
5. Youth hunters must be 15 years of age or younger. Youth 12 years of age and older will need a valid Virginia state hunting license. A licensed adult at least 18 years of age or older must accompany youth hunters into the field. This adult may not duck hunt, but may participate in other open seasons.
6. Those allowed to participate in the special **Veterans Days** include Veterans (as defined in section 101 of title 38, United States Code) and members of the Armed Forces on active duty, including members of the National Guard and Reserves on active duty (other than for training).

DUCKS

FEDERAL FRAMEWORK

Outside Dates: September 26, 2020 - January 31, 2021

Season Length: 60 hunting days; plus 2 Youth/Veterans Waterfowl Hunt Days.

Bag Limit: Daily Bag limit of 6 ducks of any species except for the following restrictions: can include no more than 2 mallards (only 1 hen), 4 scoters, 4 long-tailed ducks, 4 eiders, 3 wood ducks, 2 black ducks, 2 canvasback, **scaup: 2/day for 20 days and 1/day for 40 days**, 2 redheads, 1 pintail, 1 mottled duck, 1 fulvous whistling duck.
Closed season on harlequin duck.
The possession limit is three times the daily bag limit.

NOTE: There is an option to include mergansers in the general duck bag or leave them as a separate bag (see Merganser framework page 10). If included in the general duck bag, the restriction on 2 hooded mergansers would apply.

Split Season Options: 3-way split season, no zones

Shooting Hours: 1/2-hour before sunrise until sunset daily

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

Season Length: 60 hunting days; plus 2 Youth/Veterans Waterfowl Hunting Day

Season Dates: October 9 - 12 (Black Duck closed) (4 days)
November 18 – November 29 (12 days)
December 19 – January 31 (44 days)
(60 days)

October 24, February 6 – Youth/Veterans Waterfowl Days

Bag Limit: Daily Bag limit of 6 ducks of any species except for the following restrictions: can include no more than 2 mallards (only 1 hen), 4 scoters, 4 long-tailed ducks, 4 eiders, 3 wood ducks, 2 black ducks (except closed Oct. 9 – 12), **scaup: 1/day for 40 days (October 9-12, November 18-29, December 19 - January 11), and 2/day for 20 days (January 12-31)**, 2 redheads, 2 canvasback, 1 pintail, 1 mottled duck, 1 fulvous whistling duck.
Closed season on harlequin duck.
The possession limit is three times the daily bag limit.

Shooting Hours: 1/2-hour before sunrise until sunset daily

MERGANSER AND COOT

MERGANSER

FEDERAL FRAMEWORK

Option A

Season Length: 60 hunting days
Outside Date: September 26, 2020 - January 31, 2021
Bag Limit: 5 birds daily, of which only 2 birds may be a hooded merganser
(15 in possession, only 6 of which may be hooded mergansers)

Option B

To be included into the general duck bag. If included in the general duck bag, the restriction on 2 hooded mergansers would apply.

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

Option A

Season Dates: To coincide with general duck season
Bag Limit: 5 birds daily, of which only 2 birds may be a hooded merganser
(15 in possession, only 6 of which may be hooded mergansers)

AMERICAN COOT

FEDERAL FRAMEWORK

Season Length: 60 hunting days
Outside Date: September 26, 2020 - January 31, 2021
Bag Limit: 15 birds daily (45 in possession)

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

Season Dates: To coincide with general duck season.
Bag Limit: 15 daily (45 in possession)

SPECIAL SEA DUCK SEASON IN SEA DUCK ZONE*

FEDERAL FRAMEWORK

SEA DUCKS (SCOTER, LONG-TAILED DUCK, AND EIDER)

<u>Season Length:</u>	60 hunting days, run consecutively
<u>Outside Dates:</u>	September 15, 2020 - January 31, 2021
<u>Bag Limit:</u>	5 birds per day (15 in possession), may include no more than 4 scoters, 4 eiders or 4 long-tailed ducks.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

SEA DUCKS (SCOTER, LONG-TAILED DUCK, AND EIDER)

<u>Season Dates:</u>	November 11 – January 9 (60 days) In the Sea Duck Zone delineated below
<u>Bag Limit:</u>	5 birds per day (15 in possession), may include no more than 4 scoters, 4 eiders or 4 long-tailed ducks.

*** Sea Duck Zone:** Those waters at a distance greater than 800 yards from any shore, island or emergent vegetation in the following area: the ocean waters of Virginia, the tidal waters of Northampton and Accomack Counties, and the Chesapeake Bay and each of its tributaries up to the first highway bridge. Back Bay and its tributaries are not included in the Sea Duck Zone.

Note - Sea ducks cannot be taken in the Sea Duck Zone after January 9. Sea ducks can, however, be taken during the regular duck season (Oct. 9-12, Nov. 18-29, and Dec. 19 - Jan. 31) in all other areas outside of the sea duck zone (areas within 800 yards of any shore, island or emergent vegetation...), since they are included in the regular season duck bag. No more than 4 scoters, 4 eiders or 4 long-tails can be included in the regular season daily limit of 6 ducks.

FACT SHEET - The Status of Resident Canada Geese - 2020

- The resident Canada goose population increased significantly in Virginia during the 1980's and 1990's, and peaked at 264,000 geese in the late 1990's. This population caused significant conflicts with human and wildlife populations, and management actions were taken to reduce their numbers. The current population estimate is 125,966 (+/- 28,000) in Virginia and near 1 million in the Atlantic Flyway.
- Special resident goose hunting seasons were initiated in 1993 to help manage this population and to provide recreational opportunities for hunters. These seasons occur prior to the arrival of most migrant geese (~Sept. 25 in Virginia), or in areas where there are fewer migrant geese. The Federal Framework allows Virginia to conduct a statewide September Resident Goose season from September 1-25.
- There are fewer migrant geese in the western portions of Virginia, and special “Goose Hunting Zones” have been established that allow more liberal seasons in areas with a greater percentage of resident Canada goose.
- Special resident goose hunting seasons have been very popular, and have increased hunter participation and resident goose harvests. These seasons have been very effective in managing resident goose populations and helping to meet statewide population objectives.
- In areas where hunting is not feasible, other options including Depredation Orders (Airport, Agricultural, and Nest and Egg Depredation Orders) have been implemented to help manage resident goose conflicts.

Year	Population Estimate *	September Harvest
2019	125,966 +/- 22%	na
2018	132,633 +/- 24%	5,600
2017	142,167 +/- 21%	5,500
2016	158,200 +/- 19%	na
2015	150,651 +/- 22%	6,100
2014	130,503 +/- 26%	7,500
2013	144,910 +/- 26%	10,700
2012	158,267 +/- 28%	9,700
2011	165,022 +/- 28%	14,700
2010	147,313 +/- 29%	15,600
2009	145,019 +/- 29%	16,800
2008	157,560 +/- 29%	17,500
2007	154,030 +/- 27%	13,600
2006	136,700 +/- 27%	11,100
2005	129,486 +/- 26%	10,100
2004	143,741 +/- 25%	17,000
2003	186,753 +/- 23%	14,800
2002	218,719 +/- 24%	14,300
2001	218,384 +/- 27%	11,800
2000	227,164 +/- 32%	10,800
1999	261,554 +/- 34%	11,400
1998	264,867 +/- 35%	12,200
1997	249,612 +/- 34%	10,500
1996	181,813 +/- 36%	10,000
1995	151,043 +/- 39%	5,500

*3-year running average

SEPTEMBER CANADA GOOSE

FEDERAL FRAMEWORKS

OUTSIDE DATES: September 1 – September 25, 2020

BAG LIMIT: 15 daily, 45 in possession

SHOOTING HOURS: ½ hour before sunrise to sunset (except as provided for in special hunting options *)

* SPECIAL HUNTING OPTIONS: Allows the use of electronic calls, unplugged shotguns and extended shooting hours (1/2 hr after sunset) when no other waterfowl seasons are open.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

SEASON DATES: September 1 – September 25 (25 days)

BAG LIMIT: 10 daily, 30 in possession

HUNT AREA: Statewide

SHOOTING HOURS:

East of I-95

September 1 – 16: ½ hr before sunrise to ½ hr after sunset.

September 17 – 25: ½ hr before sunrise to sunset.

West of I-95

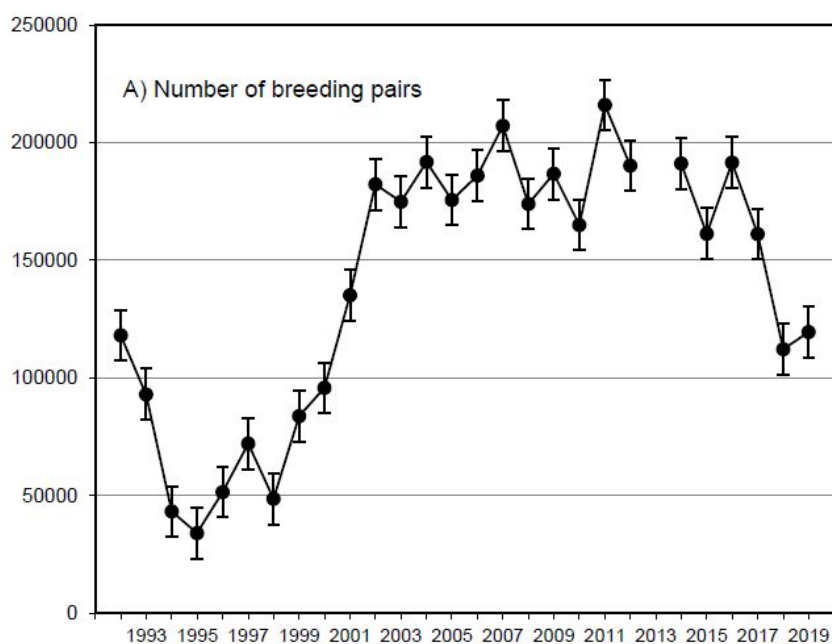
September 1 – 20: ½ hr before sunrise to ½ hr after sunset.

September 21 - 25: ½ hr before sunrise to sunset.

NOTE: Staff is not recommending the options of using electronic calls or unplugged shotguns for hunting geese in the September season.

FACT SHEET- History and Status of Migrant Canada Geese - 2020

- Migrant Canada geese from the Atlantic Population (AP) declined significantly from 1985-1995. The hunting season was closed in 1995 to allow the population to recover. Goose numbers rebounded quickly and a limited season (6 days with a 1-bird bag) was held in both 1999 and 2000.
- As the population increased, hunting regulations were liberalized. The season was extended to 30 days in 2001, then 45 days in 2002, and 50 days in 2012. The bag limit was increased to 2 per day in 2004 and remained at 50 days with a 2 goose daily limit through 2018-19.
- However, annual productivity has been below average for 6 of the past 7 years, leading to a decline in the breeding population from 2016-2018 (see graph below). In addition, adverse weather conditions on the nesting grounds in Canada in 2018 resulted in very poor production last year. Conditions on the nesting grounds improved this spring, and the breeding pair count rebounded slightly to 120,000 pairs in 2019 (6% higher than last year's estimate of 112,000).



- Due to the “bust” in production in 2018 and the declining population trend, the Atlantic Flyway Council in cooperation with the USFWS recommended reducing the harvest on AP geese in 2019-20. The season was restricted to 30 days with a 1-geese daily limit in the AP Goose Zone this past season. These restrictive regulations will remain in effect again for the 2020-21 season. Canada goose seasons in the other two goose zones in Virginia (Southern James Bay (SJB) and Resident Zones (RP)) will be unchanged from last year.

Canada Goose Populations and Hunt Zones

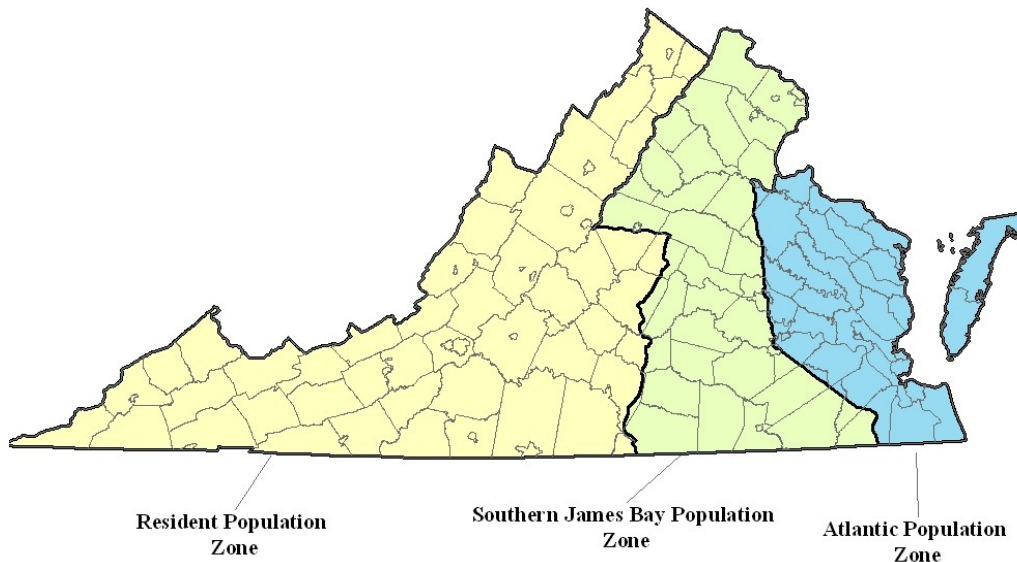
- There are 4 subpopulations of Canada geese in Virginia. These include the Atlantic Flyway Resident Population (RP) along with three migrant goose populations, the North Atlantic Population (NAP), the Southern James Bay Population (SJBP), and the Atlantic Population (AP). The majority of our migrant geese (~82%) are from the AP, about 18% are from the SJBP, and <1% are from the NAP.
- Recent research and banding analyses have enabled us to better delineate the distribution and migration corridors used by these different subpopulations, and to establish separate hunting zones based on the percentage of migrant geese in each zone. These zones include the:

Atlantic Population (AP) Hunt Zone – The area east of the Stafford/King George County line from the Potomac River south to the Rappahannock River, then west along the Stafford County line to Interstate 95, then south along I-95 to Route 460 in Petersburg, then southeast along Route 460 to Route 32 in the City of Suffolk, then south to the North Carolina border.

Southern James Bay Population (SJBP) Hunt Zone – The area to the west of the AP Hunt Zone boundary and east of the following line: the “Blue Ridge” (Loudoun County-Clarke County line) at the West Virginia-Virginia Border, south to Interstate 64 (the Blue Ridge line follows county borders along the western edge of Loudoun-Fauquier-Rappahannock-Madison-Greene-Albemarle and into Nelson Counties), then east along Interstate Rt. 64 to Route 15, then south along Rt. 15 to the North Carolina line.

Resident Population (RP) Hunt Zone – The portion of the state west of the SJBP Hunt Zone.

Virginia's Canada Goose Hunt Zones



CANADA GOOSE

FEDERAL FRAMEWORKS

ATLANTIC POPULATION ZONE (AP):

<u>Season Length:</u>	30 hunting days
<u>Outside Dates:</u>	November 15 – February 5
<u>Bag Limit:</u>	1 bird daily (3 in possession)

SOUTHERN JAMES BAY POPULATION ZONE (SJBP)

<u>Outside Dates and Season Length:</u>	
Regular Season:	November 15 – January 14 (up to 40 hunting days)
Extended Season:	January 15 – February 15
<u>Bag Limit:</u>	3/day (9 in possession) through January 14 5/day (15 in possession), January 15 to February 15

RESIDENT POPULATION ZONE (RP):

<u>Outside Dates:</u>	November 15 – March 10
<u>Season Length:</u>	80 hunting days
<u>Bag Limit:</u>	5 birds daily (15 in possession)

NOTE – All seasons also include White-fronted geese along with Canada geese.

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

ATLANTIC POPULATION ZONE: (AP)

<u>Season Dates:</u>	December 19 – January 1 (14 days)
	January 16 – January 31 (16 days)
<u>Bag Limit:</u>	1 goose per day (3 in possession)
<u>Shooting Hours:</u>	1/2-hour before sunrise until sunset daily

SOUTHERN JAMES BAY POPULATION ZONE (SJBP)

<u>Season Dates:</u>	
Regular Season:	November 18 – November 29 3/day December 19 – January 14 3/day
Extended Season:	January 15 - February 15 5/day
<u>Shooting Hours:</u>	1/2-hour before sunrise until sunset daily

RESIDENT POPULATION ZONE: (RP)

<u>Season Dates:</u>	November 18 – November 29 December 19 - February 24
<u>Bag Limit:</u>	5 birds daily (15 in possession)
<u>Shooting Hours:</u>	1/2-hour before sunrise until sunset daily

NOTE – All seasons also include White-fronted geese along with Canada geese.

FACT SHEET - Status of Light Geese (Greater and Lesser Snow Geese, and Ross's Geese) - 2020

- The majority of the “Light” geese found in the Atlantic Flyway are Greater Snow Geese, while less than 5% are Lesser Snow Geese, with even smaller numbers of Ross’s Geese.
- The Greater Snow Goose population is monitored on spring staging areas along the St. Lawrence Valley in Quebec. The 2019 population estimate was 714,000 geese, which is 19% lower than last year but similar to the long-term average.
- The principal nesting areas for greater snow geese are on Bylot, Axel Heiberg, Ellesmere, and Baffin Islands, and on Greenland. They winter along the Atlantic Coast from New Jersey to North Carolina.
- Breeding conditions were above average on Bylot Island in 2019 and biologists reported early spring phenology. Warm temperatures and an early snowmelt led to early nest initiation, and nest depredation was low. Initial nesting parameters included (with long-term averages in parentheses): nest initiation on June 7 (LTA June 12), estimated mean hatch date of July 4 (LTA July 9), mean clutch size of 4.1 (LTA 3.71), and late incubation nest success 90% (66%).
- Over the last 30 years, snow goose populations have increased almost ten-fold. A shift from feeding almost exclusively in marshes to feeding more on agricultural grains has allowed them to expand their range and habitat use. This shift has also allowed them to return to their breeding habitats in better physical condition, which has led to increased productivity.
- This population boom has resulted in ecological degradation on their breeding, migration and wintering areas. Snow geese can cause damage to these habitats by pulling up plant roots and denuding marshes of vegetation. Snow geese can also cause conflicts with agricultural interest by pulling up green grains including wheat and barley.
- Current hunting regulations for snow geese are as liberal as Federal Frameworks will allow and include a 107-day season that runs from October to January, and a bag limit that was increased from 15 to 25 in 2010. Liberal seasons have helped increase the harvest, however, the population is still quite large and concerns remain about detrimental impacts these birds are having on breeding and wintering habitats.
- A Conservation Order (CO) was established in 2009, and authorizes the use of alternative management strategies (unplugged shotguns, electronic calls, shooting to ½ hour after sunset, no daily bag limit) to further increase the harvest of snow geese in the Atlantic Flyway.

LIGHT GOOSE SEASONS

REGULAR LIGHT GOOSE SEASON

FEDERAL FRAMEWORK

<u>Season Length:</u>	107 hunting days
<u>Outside Dates:</u>	October 1, 2020 - March 10, 2021
<u>Split Season Option:</u>	3-way split season
<u>Bag Limit:</u>	25 birds daily (no possession limit)

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

<u>Season Dates:</u>	October 17 – January 31	(107 days)
<u>Bag Limit:</u>	25 birds daily (no possession limit)	

LIGHT GOOSE CONSERVATION ORDER

FEDERAL FRAMEWORK

- Outside Dates:** When no other waterfowl seasons are open
- Bag Limit:** No daily or possession limit
- Special Hunting Methods:** Electronic calls, unplugged shotguns and extended shooting hours to one-half hour after sunset **only in areas and at times when other waterfowl seasons are closed.**
- Special Requirements:** States participating in the Conservation Order are required to monitor hunter participation, effort, and success.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Conservation Order Zone: The same as the AP Canada Goose Zone - The area east of the Stafford/King George County line from the Potomac River south to the Rappahannock River, then west along the Stafford County line to Interstate 95, then south along I-95 to Route 460 in Petersburg, then southeast along Route 460 to Route 32 in the City of Suffolk, then south to the North Carolina border.

- Season Dates:** February 1 – April 5, 2021 (65 days)
- Bag Limit:** No daily or possession limit
- Special Hunting Methods:** Electronic calls, unplugged shotguns and extended shooting hours to one-half hour after sunset.
- Special Requirements:** Hunters participating in the Conservation Order **must register with DGIF**, keep a record of their harvest and participation, and return a harvest report form within two weeks following the close of the season.

FACT SHEET - Status of Atlantic Brant and Tundra Swan - 2020

- **BRANT.** The main breeding areas for Atlantic Brant are in the Eastern Canadian Arctic on Baffin, Southampton, and Ellesmere Islands. Most brant winter along the Atlantic Coast from MA to NC.
- The 2020 Mid-Winter Survey (MWS) count of brant in the Atlantic Flyway (139,875) was 16% higher than in 2019, and was similar to the past 5-year average (144,170). Fall productivity surveys indicated 10.5% young, which is up 1.5% from last year, but still 41% below the long-term average (17.6).
- The Brant Harvest Strategy provides hunting season recommendation based on the annual Mid-Winter Survey count in the Atlantic Flyway. The strategy recommends a 50-day, 2-bird daily bag limit for brant in the 2020-2021 season.
- **TUNDRA SWANS.** The Eastern Population of tundra swans nest in arctic tundra areas from Alaska, east to Hudson Bay and Baffin Island. These birds winter in coastal areas from Maryland to North Carolina.
- The tundra swan productivity estimate from this fall (8% young) increased slightly from the previous year (5%), but was still 40% below the long-term average (13.2).
- The total 2020 Mid-Winter Survey count of EP tundra swans was 78,586, with 61,354 counted in the Atlantic Flyway, 9,241 in the Mississippi Flyway (MF) and 7,991 in Ontario. This total is down from last year's count of 92,817, and drops the 3-year running average (2018-2020) to 94,340.
- Prior to 2019, eight states in the U.S. hunted tundra swans including Alaska, Utah, Montana and Nevada in the Pacific Flyway, North Dakota and South Dakota in the Central Flyway, and North Carolina and Virginia in the Atlantic Flyway.
- In 2019-20, Delaware initiated its first tundra swan hunting season. Therefore, starting in 2019-20, the allocation of hunt permits in the Atlantic Flyway was split between the 3 states that have tundra swan hunting seasons (DE, VA, NC), in proportion to the number of swans in each state. For the 2020-21 season, North Carolina will be allocated 4,895 permits, Virginia will be allocated 638 permits, and Delaware will be allocated 67 permits.
- The tundra swan hunting season in Virginia is authorized and conducted as specified in the Atlantic Flyway Tundra Swan Management Plan and Hunt Plan, with limits and guidelines as specified under an MOU with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

ATLANTIC BRANT

FEDERAL FRAMEWORK

<u>Season Length:</u>	50 hunting days
<u>Outside Dates:</u>	September 26, 2020 - January 31, 2021
<u>Split Season Option:</u>	2-way split season
<u>Bag Limit:</u>	2 bird daily (6 in possession)

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

<u>Season Dates:</u>	November 24 – November 29 December 19 – January 31
<u>Bag Limit:</u>	2 birds daily (6 in possession)

TUNDRA SWAN

FEDERAL FRAMEWORK

Season Length: 90 hunting days

Outside Dates: October 1, 2020 - January 31, 2021

Virginia may issue up to **638 permits** and must obtain harvest and hunter participation data. Each permittee is authorized to take one (1) tundra swan per season.

Bag Limit: One per permittee per season

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

Season Dates: November 18 - January 31

Bag Limit: One per permittee per season

Hunt Area: All counties and portions of counties east of U.S. Route I- 95 and south of the Prince William/Stafford county line in Chopawamsic Creek at Quantico Marine Corps Base.

NOTE: VDGIF will issue no more than **638** swan-hunting permits to holders of a valid Virginia hunting license. Only hunters with a valid 2020-2021 tundra swan-hunting permit issued by VDGIF shall be authorized to hunt tundra swans. Each permittee will be authorized to take one tundra swan during the season. Swan hunting permits are non-transferable and are valid for use only by the person to whom issued. Permits must be in the immediate possession of the permittee while swan hunting. Immediately at the time and place of kill, successful hunters must permanently record the month and day of kill on their permit and attach it to their swan. The VDGIF is required to obtain hunter participation and harvest information to offer this Tundra Swan hunting season. **Hunters are required to complete the tundra swan hunt questionnaire (survey) and submit their results to the Department by February 15, 2021.** Those who fail to submit their results are ineligible for future drawings.

FALCONRY

FEDERAL FRAMEWORK

<u>Season Length:</u>	No more than 107 on any species (Gun and Falconry combined)
<u>Outside Dates:</u>	September 1 - March 10
<u>Bag Limit:</u>	3 daily (9 in possession)
<u>Hawking Hours:</u>	½ hour before sunrise until sunset.

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS

<u>Dove:</u>	September 5 – October 28 November 21 – November 29 December 24 – January 31
---------------------	---

Rail, Gallinule, Moorhen: September 9 – December 22

Woodcock: October 17 – January 31

Snipe: October 9 - 12
October 21 – January 31

Canada Goose: September 1 - September 25
November 18 – November 29
December 19 - February 24

September Teal: September 17 - September 30

Ducks, Mergansers, Coot: October 9 - 12
November 18 – February 12

Brant and Snow Goose: October 17 – January 31

NOTE: Recommended dates based on adoption of preceding gun season proposals; if amended, staff requests permission to calculate permissible dates for each species within the allowable federal framework.

DGIF Board Meeting

May 27, 2020





DEPARTMENT OF
**GAME & INLAND
FISHERIES**

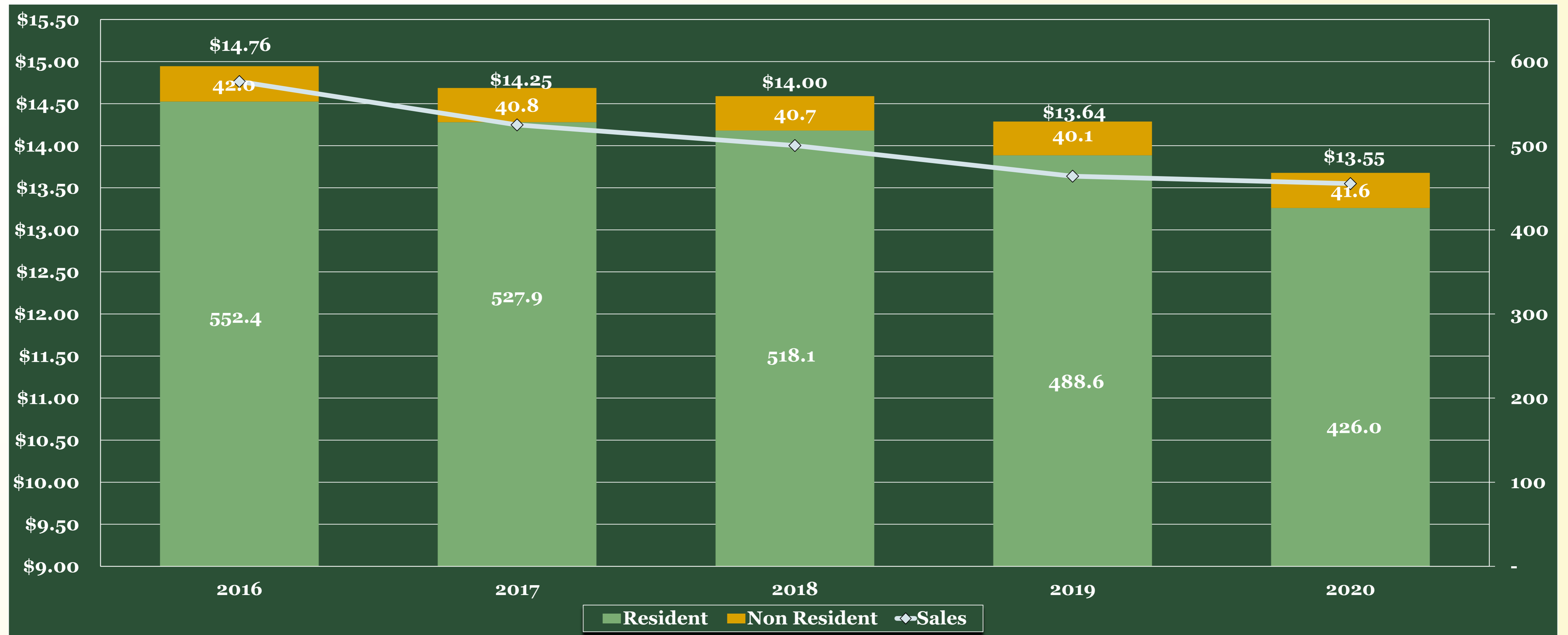
CONSERVE. CONNECT. PROTECT.

Financial Report as of 30 April 2020



FY16-20 Sales Comparison - Hunting

Jul 1 – Apr 30

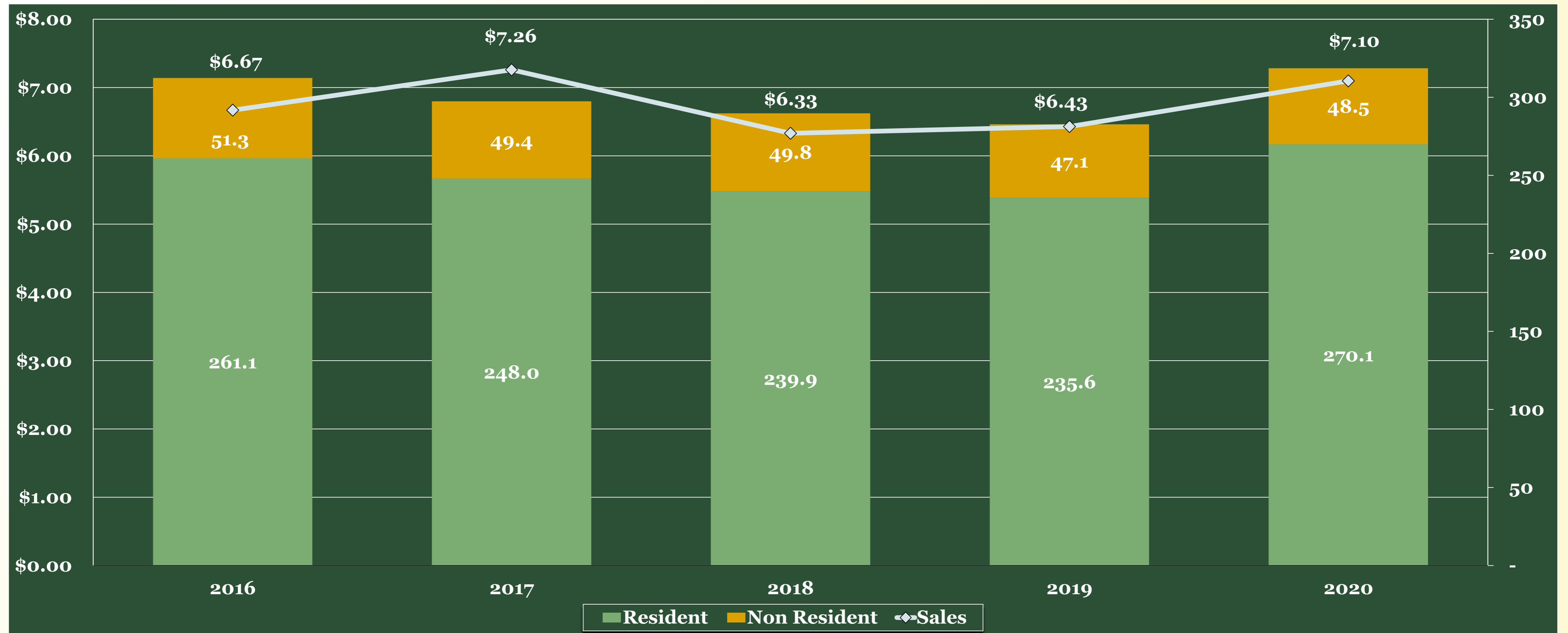


\$ In Millions
License Sold In Thousands



FY16-20 Sales Comparison - Fishing

Jul 1 – Apr 30

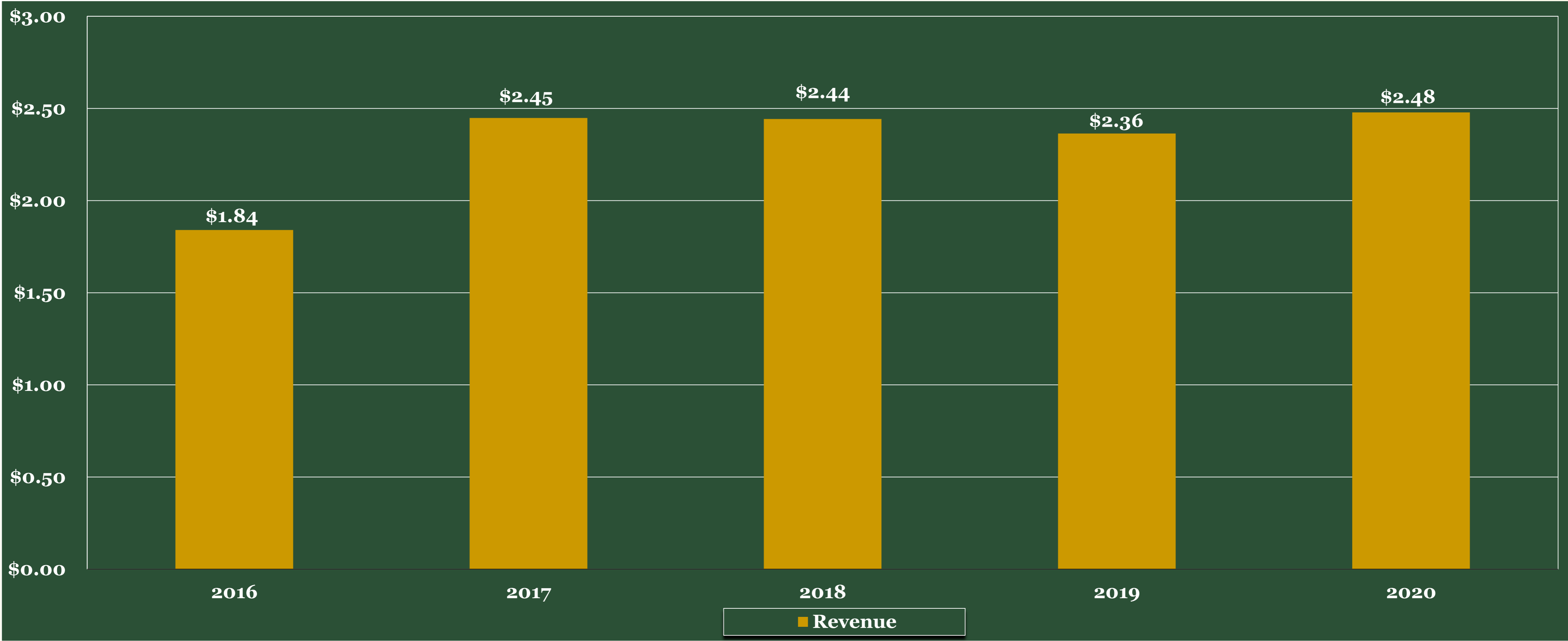


\$ In Millions
License Sold In Thousands



FY17-20 Revenue Comparison - Boat

Jul 1 – Apr 30



\$ In Millions



FY17-20 Federal Revenue & Reimbursements

Jul 1 – Apr 30

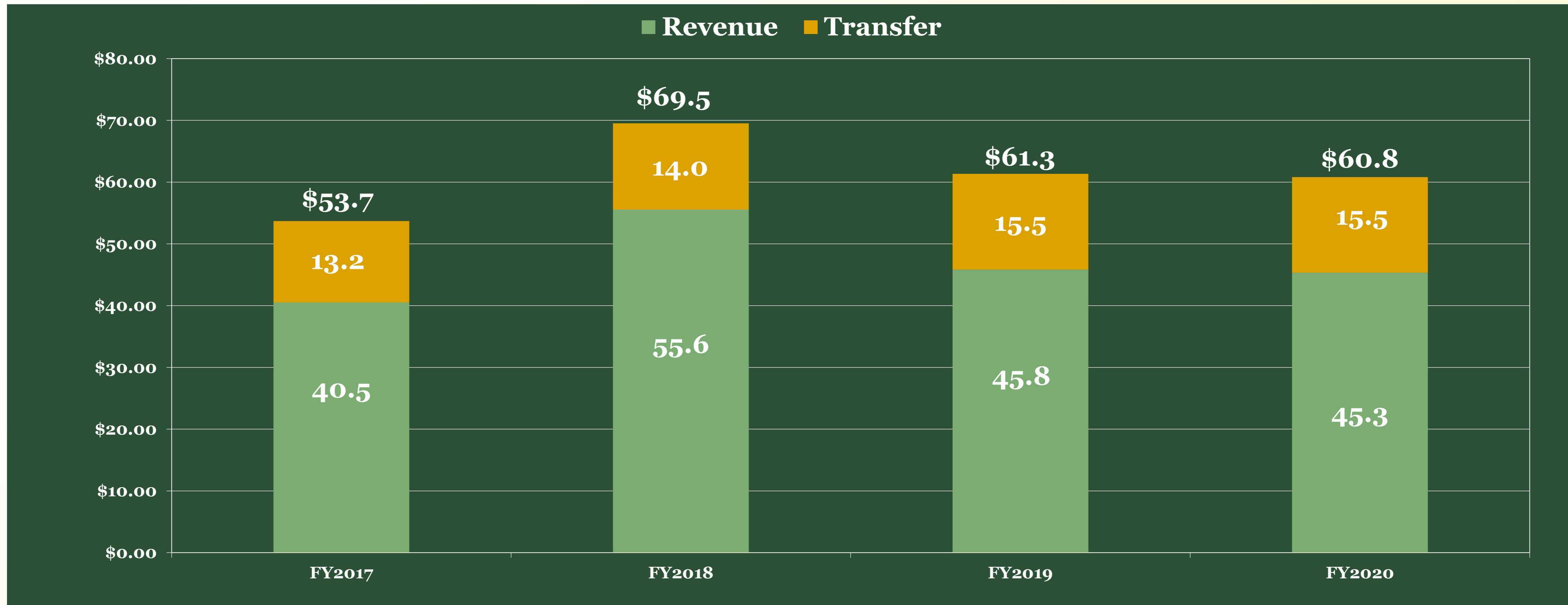
Federal Grant Program	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20
Wildlife Restoration (PR)	\$8,811	\$17,343	\$11,580	\$9,004
Sport Fish Restoration (DJ)	\$2,882	\$2,901	\$3,128	\$3,021
Boating Safety	\$1,350	\$1,400	\$2,008	\$1,592
State Wildlife Grant (SWG)	\$1,401	\$549	\$1,182	\$1,086

\$ In Thousands



FY17-20 Total Revenue and Transfers

Jul 1 – Apr 30



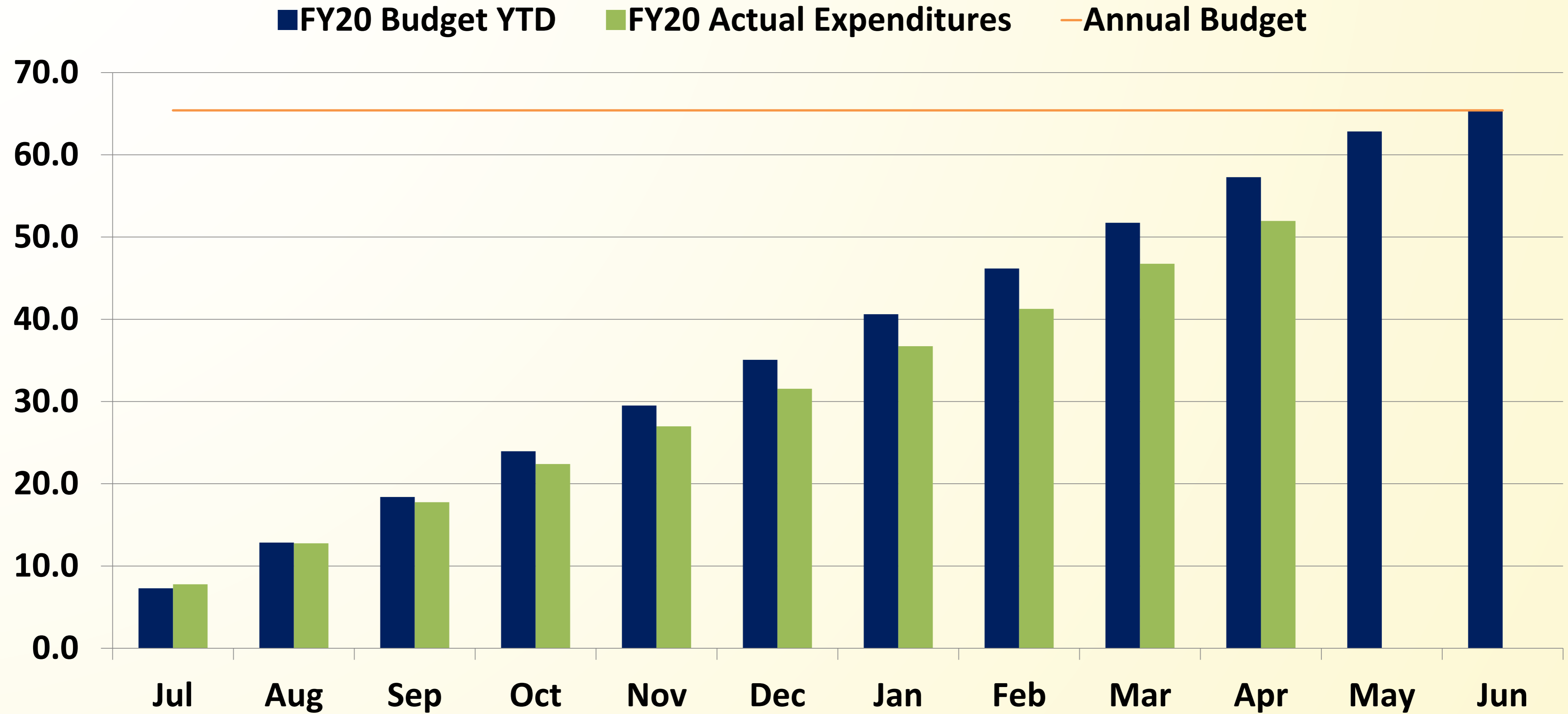
\$ In Millions

*FY18 includes Mitigation funds and additional PR funds for land purchases.



FY20 Budget Performance

Jul 1 – Apr 30

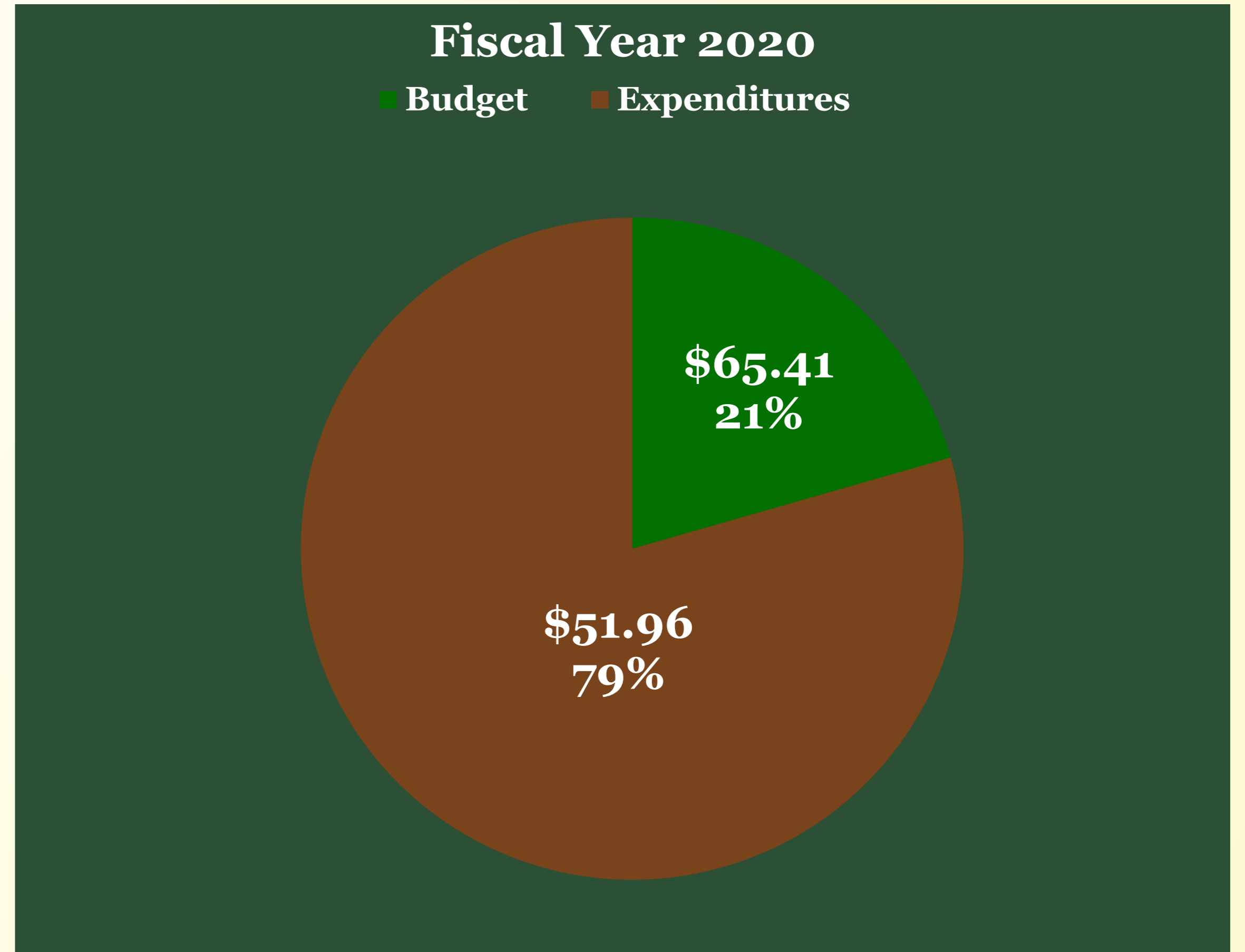
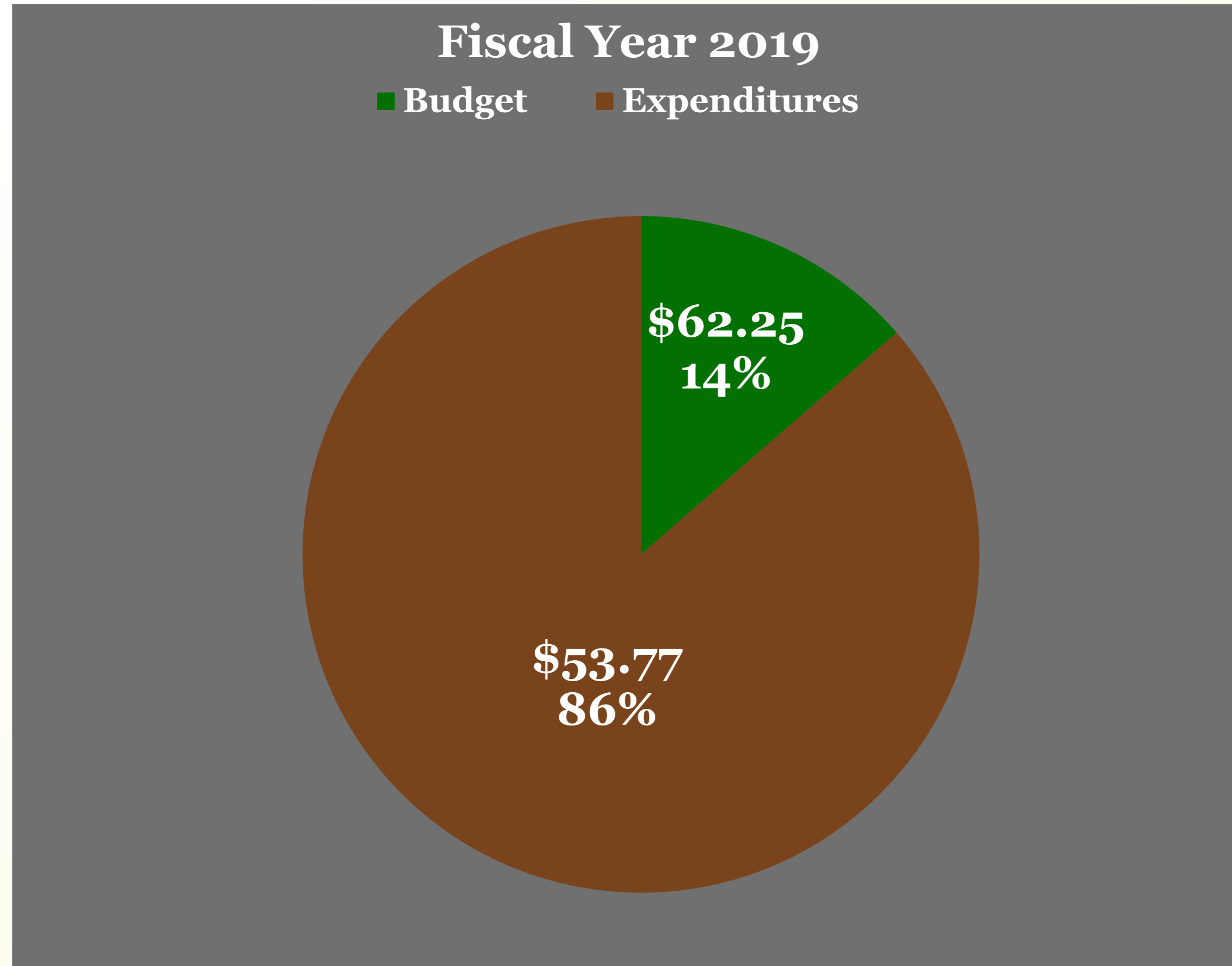


\$ In Millions



FY20 Operating Budget vs Expenditures

Jul 1 – Apr 30

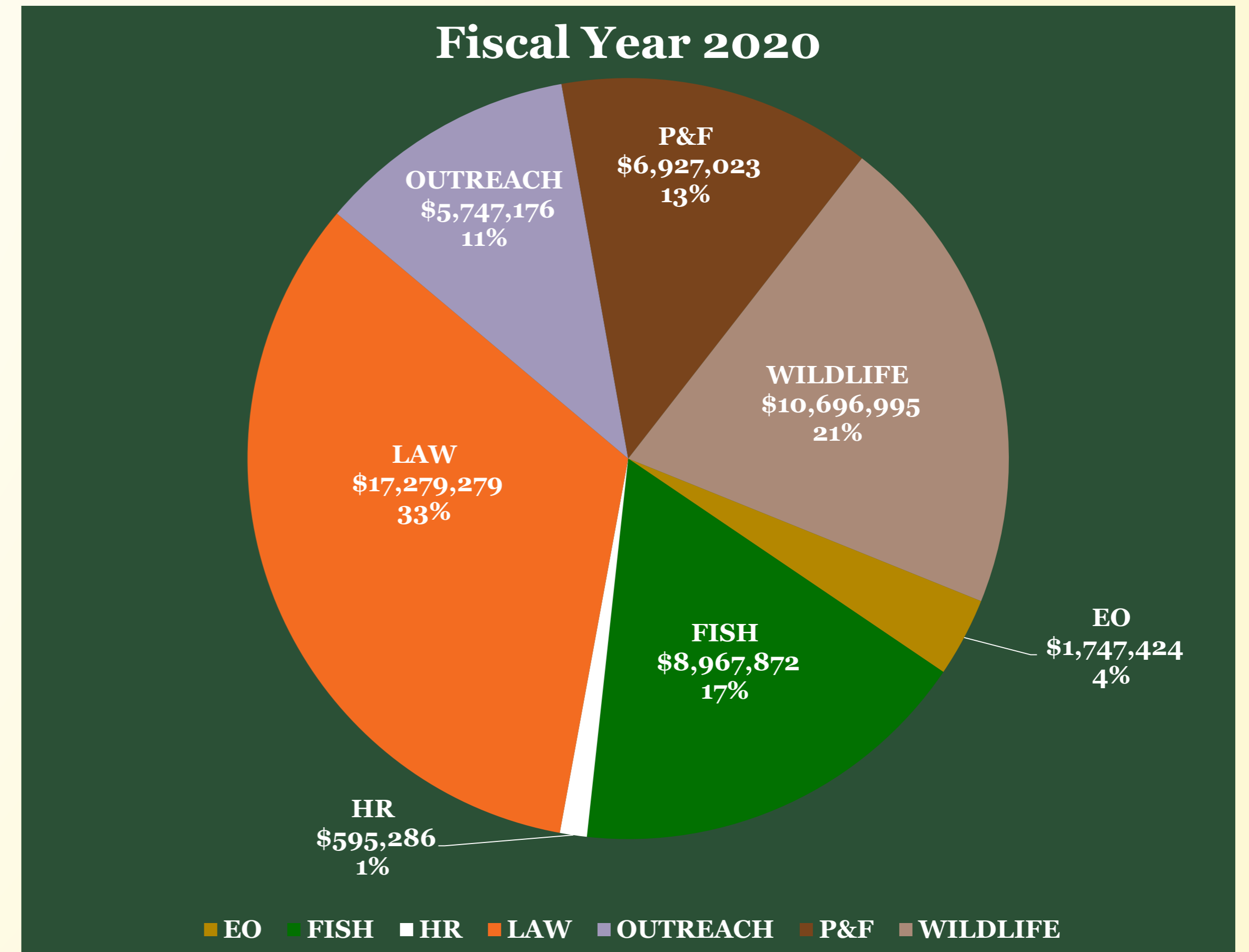
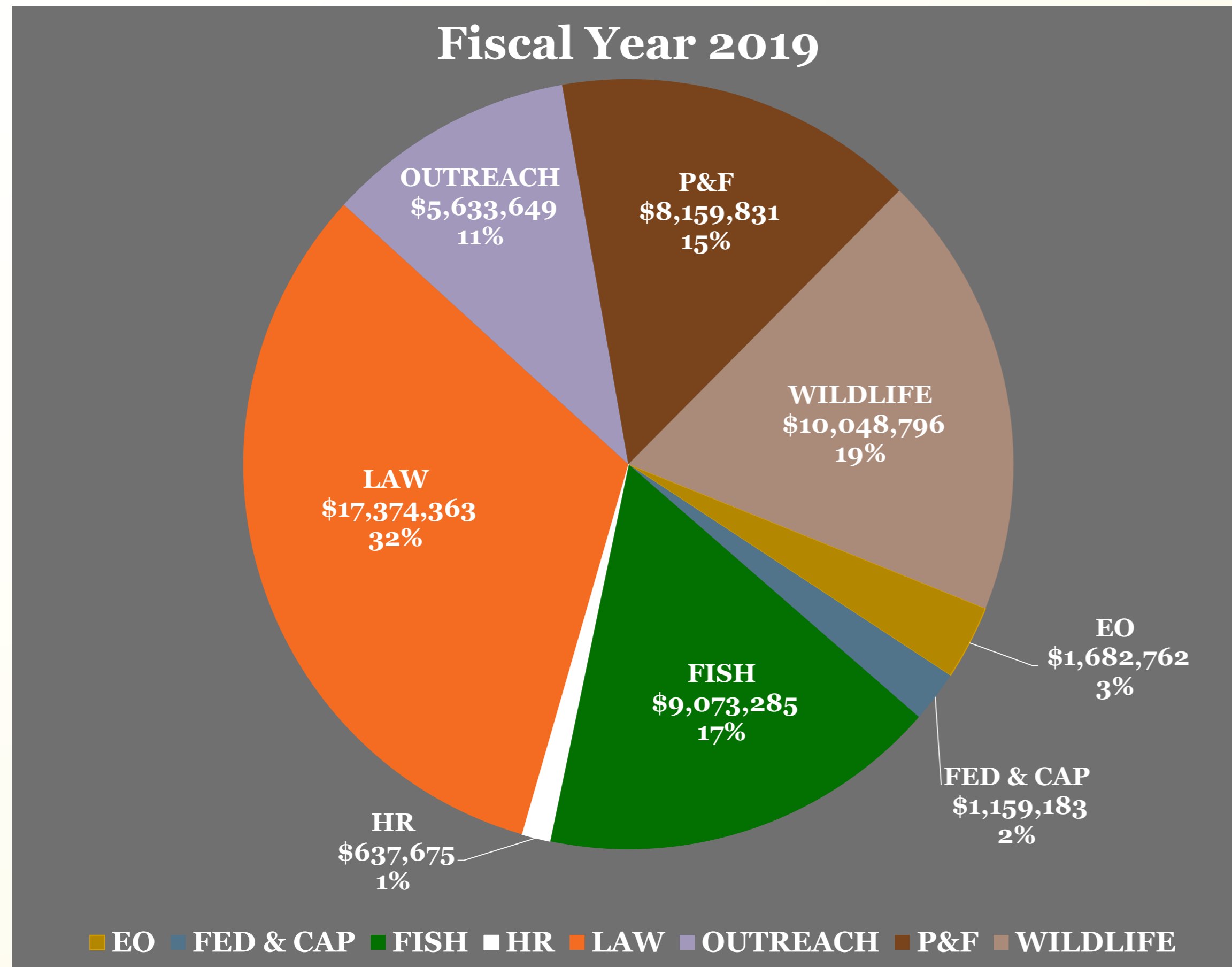


\$ In Millions



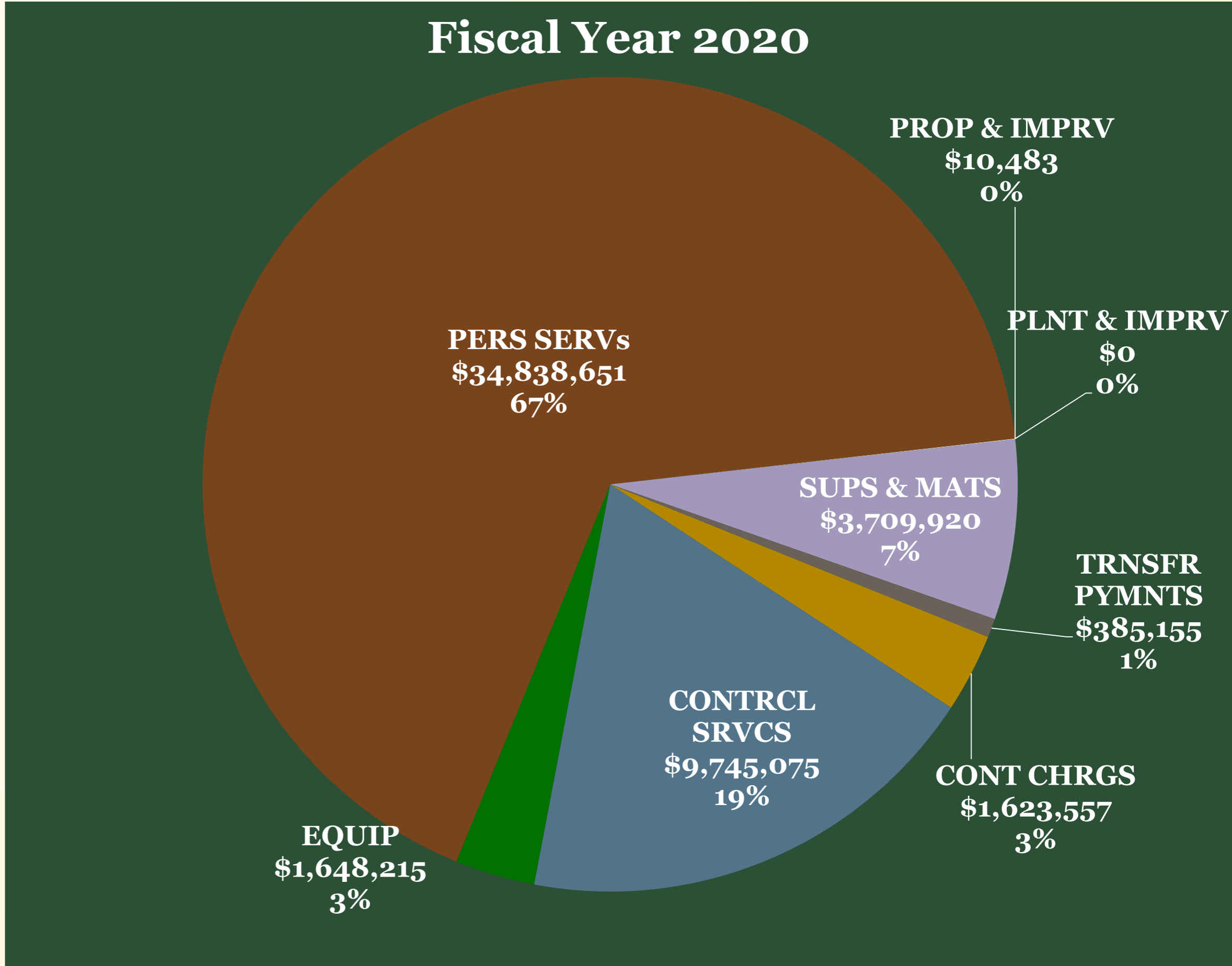
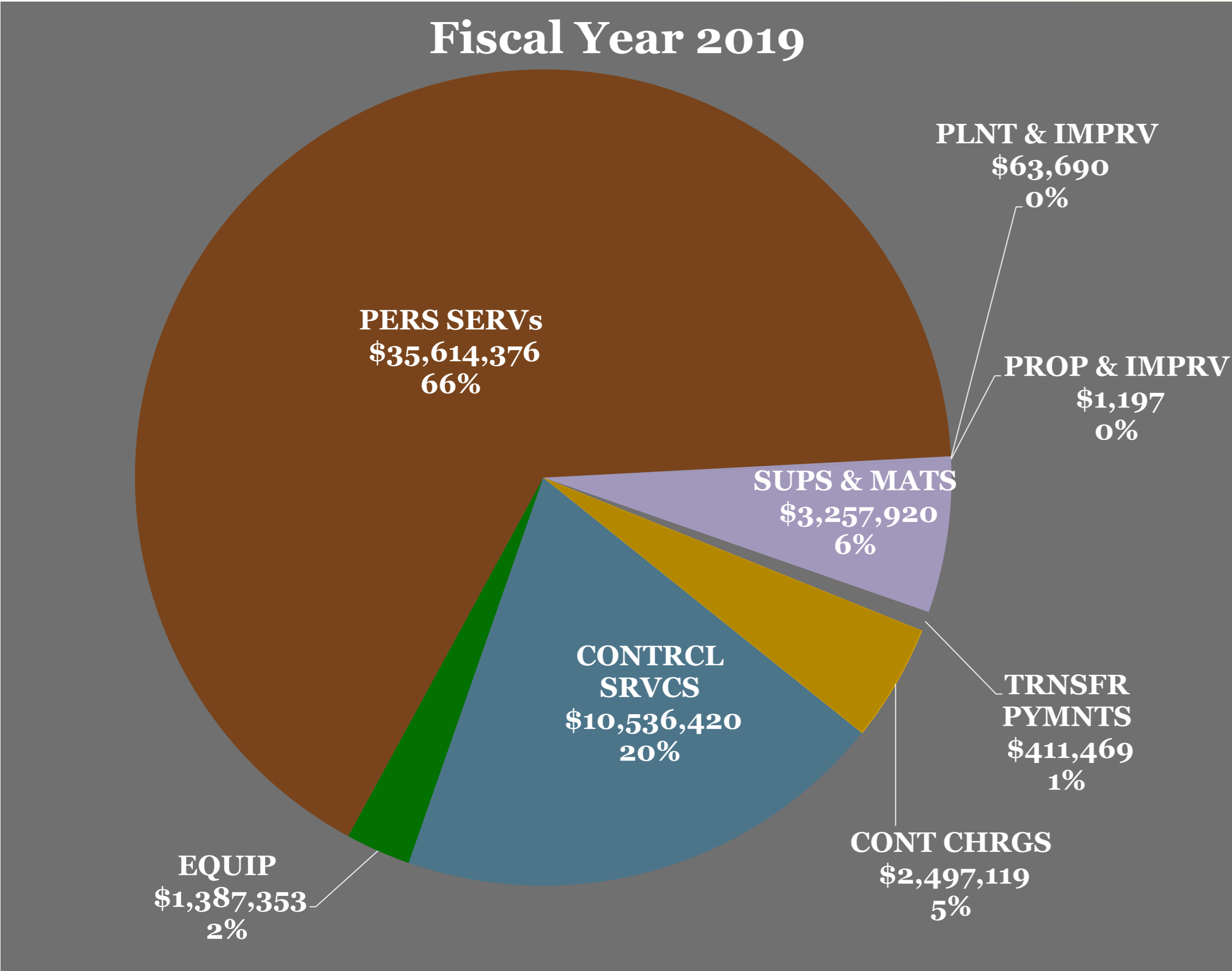
FY20 Operating Expenditures by Division

Jul 1 – Apr 30



FY20 Operating Expenditures by Account

Jul 1 – Apr 30

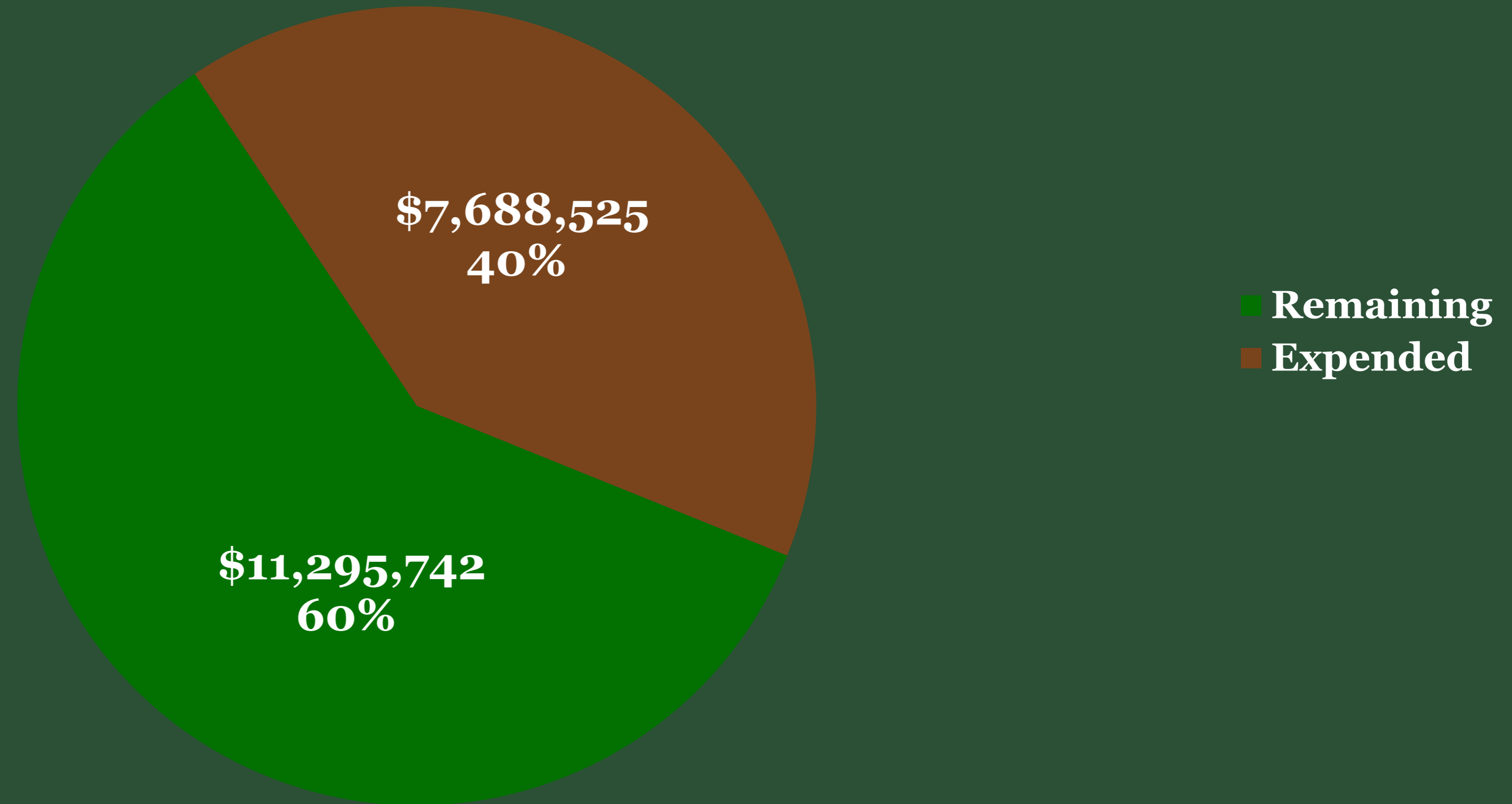


FY20 Capital Budget vs Expenditures

Jul 1 – Apr 30

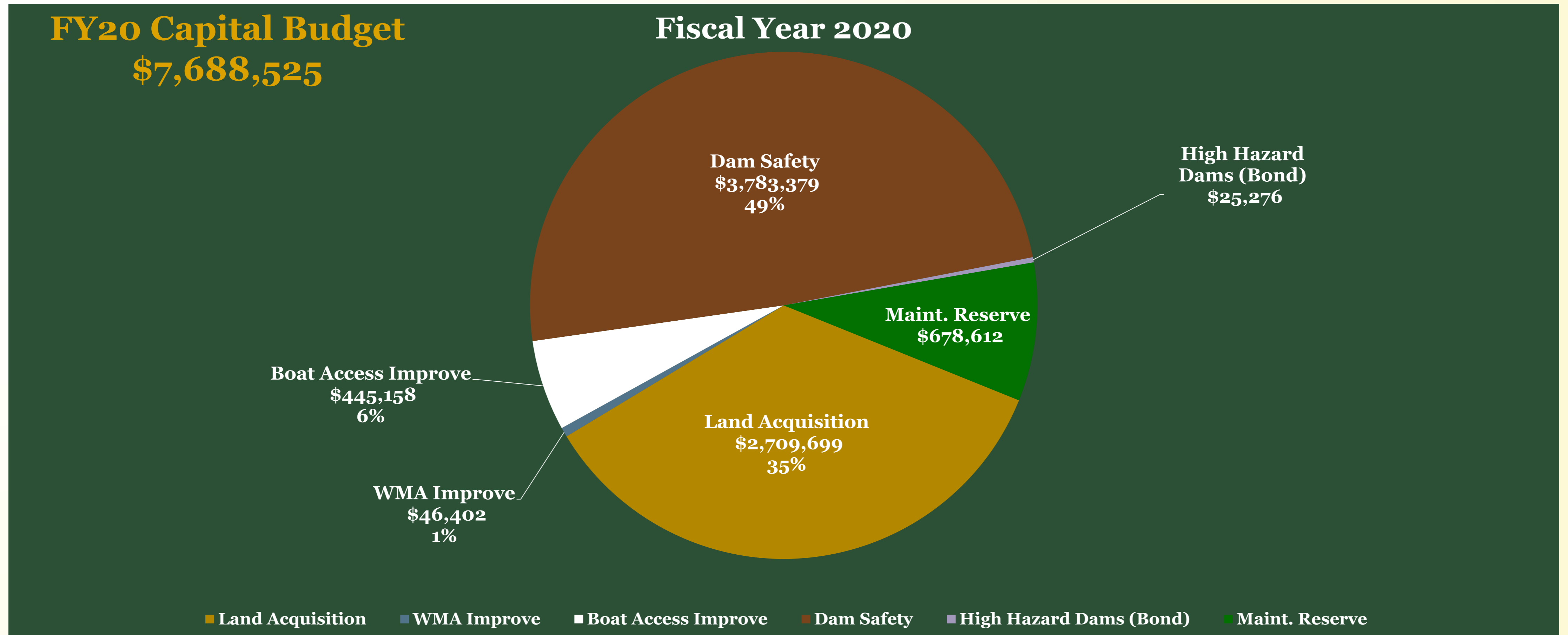
FY20 Capital Budget
\$18,984,267

Fiscal Year 2020



FY20 Capital Expenditures by Project

Jul 1 – Apr 30





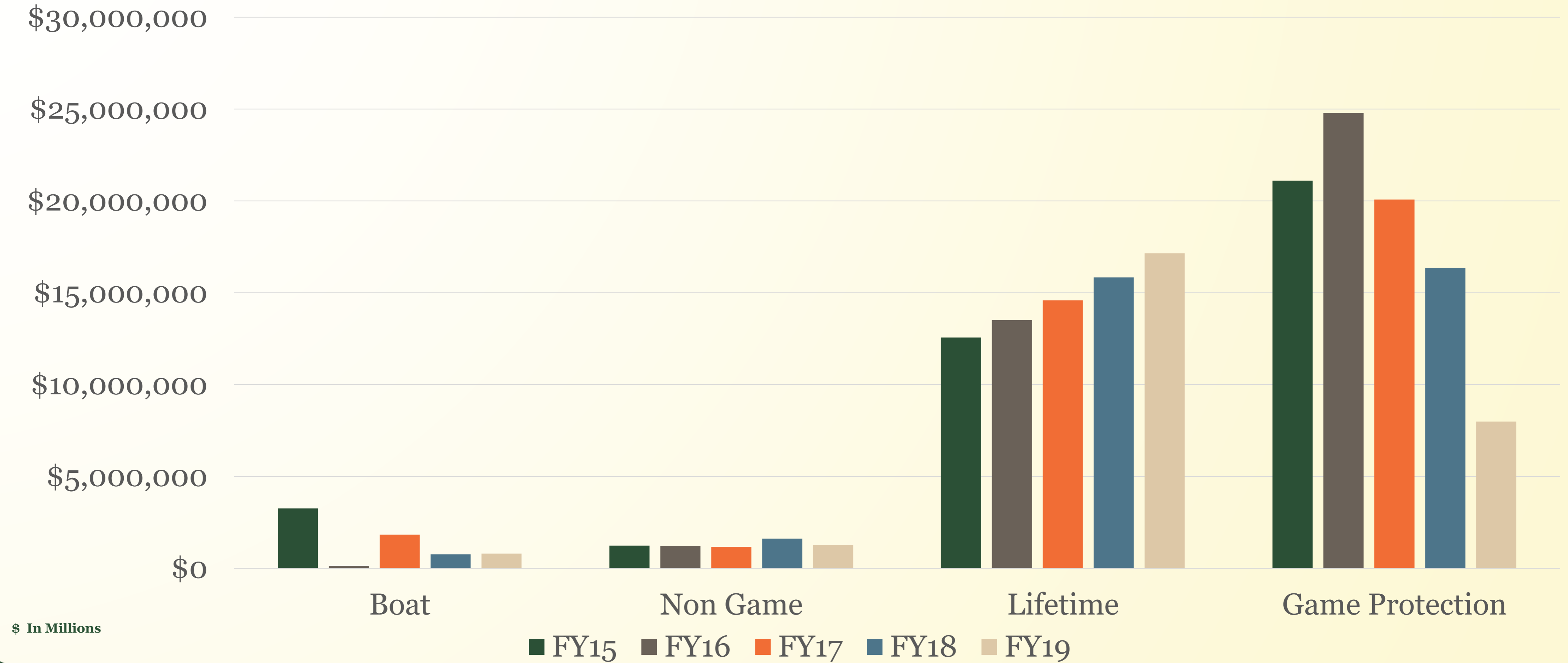
DEPARTMENT OF
**GAME & INLAND
FISHERIES**

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FY21 Budget Proposal



FY15-19 End of Year Fund Balance



\$ In Millions



FY21-22 Biennial Budget

FY21 (July 1, 2020—June 30, 2021)

- Operating Appropriation is **\$67.9M in FY21 and \$66.8M in FY22.**
- Includes specific appropriation requests for MITIGATION FUNDS.
- Each fiscal year also includes an additional \$2.1M for Central Appropriation Adjustments, to be absorbed within existing revenue.
- General Assembly added another 3.0% bonus in FY21 and 3.0% merit based increase for eligible employees in FY22. Each is tied to Statewide revenue targets, to be absorbed within existing revenue.

- Capital Appropriation REQUEST was \$9.25M in FY21 and \$9.25M in FY22.

- \$5.5M in Watercraft Sales and Use “Transfers” in each FY21 & FY22
- \$11M in HB38 “Transfers” in each FY21 & FY22.



FY 2021

Operating Budget

Request

Personnel and Non-Personnel Proposal: **\$63,737,119**

Mitigation Budget Proposal: **\$3,338,735**

Total Operating Budget Proposal: **\$67,075,854**



FY21 Operating Budget Considerations

- Budgeting to less than Appropriation to account for uncertain future revenue, lower cash balances, and increased personnel/central costs.
- Except for priority positions in Law Enforcement and Outreach, leave unfilled all salaried vacancies in the proposed budgets. ***Although most fulltime vacancies are not funded at this time, all part-time support positions (both filled and vacant) are funded in budget.***
- Eliminate all discretionary training-based (in-person) travel
- Eliminate in budget (and hold) all new vehicle purchases to allow for evaluation of all DGIF fleet.
- Reduce and reserve all Overtime for Law Enforcement Mission Critical Operations
- Establish Decision Points going forward to re-assess funding and budget impacts
- Review Program Narratives and Justifications for deeper dive in the coming months



FY21 Operating Budget Decision Points/Considerations

May to December, 2020



Division Budget Program Narratives

Output & Outcome
Measures

Location/Constituents

Consequences of
Underfunding

Consequences of
Discontinuing

Relationship to
Vision, Mission, and
Core Values



FY21 Operating Budget Priorities

- Environmental Education & Outreach
- Internship Program Opportunities
- Diversity/Inclusion Training & Initiatives
- Conservation Police Officer Career Track Program
- Conservation Police Officer Academy
- Law Enforcement Leadership & Legal Support
- Field Equipment to support expanding O&M needs on DGIF properties
- Mitigation efforts for Hog Island living shoreline installation, Mussel research and restoration efforts
- Expanded Technology to support more Telework and Virtual Meetings
- Wildlife & Fisheries Research



FY21 Operating & Mitigation Budget Summary

Division	FY20 Personnel	FY20 Non-Personnel	FY21 Personnel	FY21 Non-Personnel
Executive Office	\$1,506,622	317,000	\$1,827,895	\$329,858
Fisheries	\$7,589,361	\$3,621,856	\$7,655,282	\$3,670,660
<i>Fisheries (DuPont)</i>	\$0	\$806,930	\$0	\$312,551
Wildlife	\$7,678,991	\$5,183,280	\$7,629,200	\$5,700,809
<i>Wildlife (Dominion)</i>	\$0	\$1,768,400	\$0	\$3,026,184
Human Resources	\$634,926	40,000	\$719,524	\$12,500
Law Enforcement	\$16,195,852	\$3,948,906	\$16,085,158	\$4,148,993
Outreach	\$4,000,164	\$2,865,031	\$4,371,307	\$2,602,541
Planning & Finance	\$3,553,548	\$5,697,827	\$3,628,124	\$5,355,267
Total (w/out Mitigation)	\$41,159,465	\$21,673,900	\$41,916,490	\$21,820,628
Total (with Mitigation)	\$41,159,465	\$24,249,230	\$41,916,490	\$25,159,363



FY21 Operating Budget: Mitigation Efforts

Mitigation Efforts Description	FY21 Budget
Fisheries (DuPont Settlement): Total Budget = \$312,551	
VFAWC contract with CMI (John Moore); DuPont NRDAR; operations	\$102,728
VFAWC contract with VCU for in-vitro work; DuPont NRDAR; operations	\$15,000
DuPont NRDAR mussel restoration contract (VA Tech)	\$43,236
Electrical Service Charges	\$5,000
Propagation system upgrades	\$2,500
Elkton - S. Fk. Restoration	\$144,087
Wildlife (Dominion Settlement): Total Budget = \$3,026,184	
Acquisition support for 400 acres WMA adjacent property	\$1,000,000
Hog Island living shoreline installation, Contract with Ducks Unlimited	\$1,990,000
Marsh Cam equipment and installation streaming, support, data analysis, interpretation	\$36,184



FY21 Operating Budget Summary

Division	FY21 Personnel	FY21 Non-Personnel	FY21 TOTAL	% Share
Executive Office	\$1,827,895	\$329,858	\$2,157,753	3.39%
Fisheries	\$7,655,282	\$3,670,660	\$11,325,942	17.77%
Wildlife	\$7,629,200	\$5,700,809	\$13,330,009	20.91%
Human Resources	\$719,524	\$12,500	\$732,024	1.15%
Law Enforcement	\$16,085,158	\$4,148,993	\$20,234,151	31.75%
Outreach	\$4,371,307	\$2,602,541	\$6,973,848	10.94%
Planning & Finance	\$3,628,124	\$5,355,267	\$8,983,391	14.09%
Total	\$41,916,490	\$21,820,628	\$63,737,118	

*Does not include Mitigation Budget Amounts



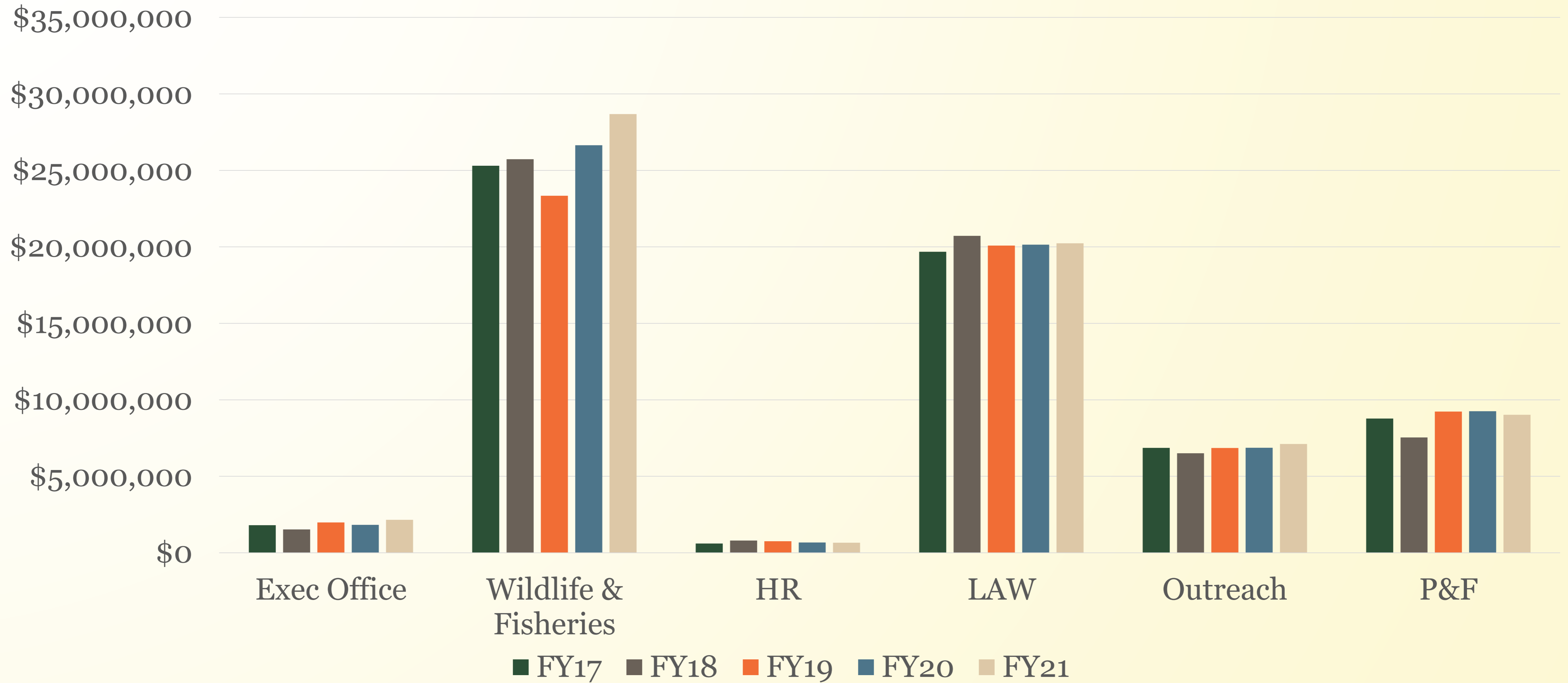
Operating Budget Division Share: FY20-21

Division	FY20 Budget	FY20 % Share	FY21 Budget	FY21 % Share
EO	\$1,823,622	2.90%	\$2,157,753	3.39%
Fisheries	\$11,211,216	17.84%	\$11,325,942	17.77%
Wildlife	\$12,862,272	20.47%	\$13,330,009	20.91%
HR	\$674,926	1.07%	\$732,024	1.15%
Law	\$20,144,758	32.06%	\$20,234,151	31.75%
Outreach	\$6,865,195	10.93%	\$6,973,848	10.94%
P&F	\$9,251,375	14.72%	\$8,983,391	14.09%
Total	\$62,833,364		\$63,737,118	

*Does not include Mitigation Budget Amounts



Operating Budget Division Trends

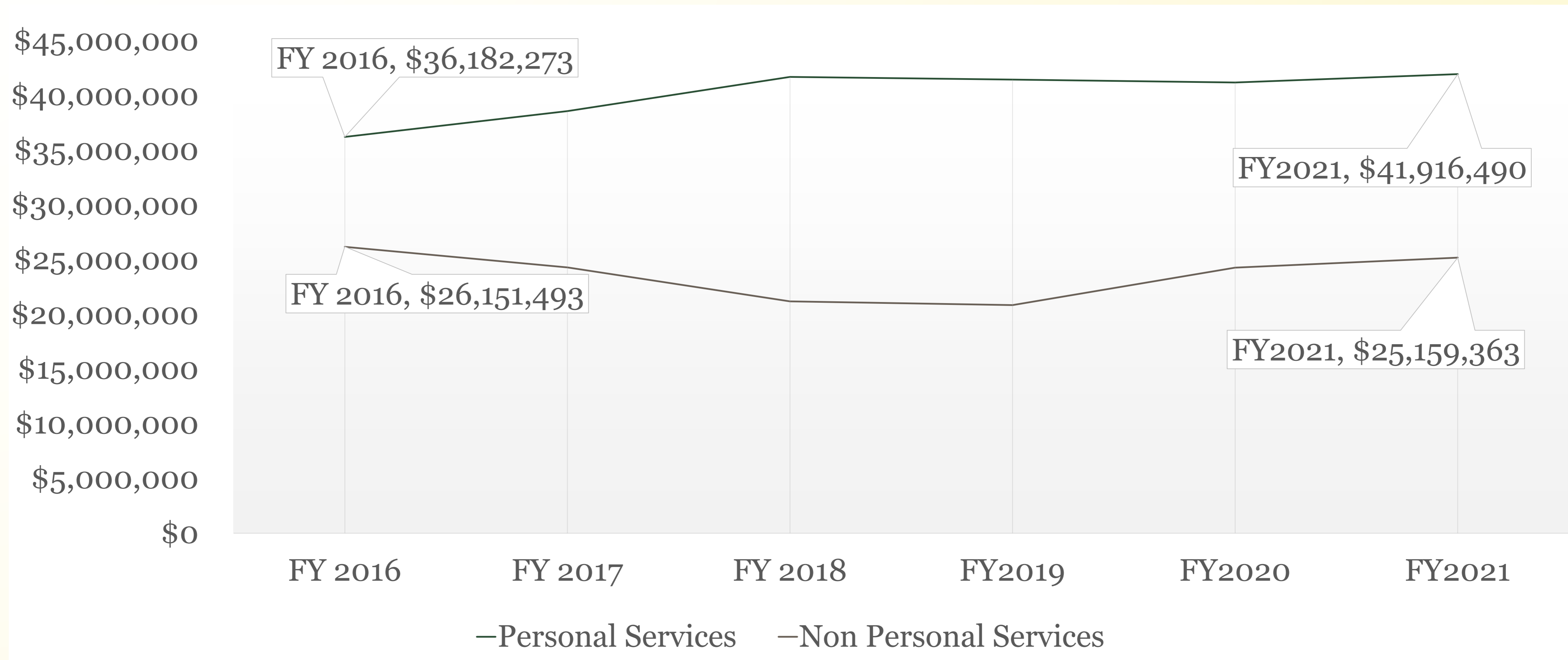


Operating Budget Staffing Trends

	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21
Full-Time Employees	463	469	461	453	447
Wage Employees	97	98	86	95	87



Operating Budget Trends (Per v. Non-Per)



Operating Budget Division Staffing: FY20-21

Division Staffing	FTE '20	Wage '20	FTE '21	Wage '21
Exec. Office	12	1	13	2
Fisheries	82	39	78	40
Wildlife	82	29	75	26
HR	5	1	6	0
Law	194	7	180	5
Outreach	44	16	46	12
P&F	34	5	33	2
TOTAL	453	98	447	87



FY 2021
Capital Budget
Request

Overall Proposal: \$2,252,427



FY21 Capital Budget Considerations

- Budgeting to less than Appropriation to account for uncertain future revenue, lower cash balances, and increased personnel/central costs
- Immediate Need Maintenance Reserve Projects
- Completion of Capital Bonds Projects and Reimbursements for High Hazard Dams
- Law Enforcement Boat Storage Needs
- Strategic Review for Fish Hatcheries currently under development; More projects may be added later
- Strategic Review for WMA facilities in process; More projects may be added later
- State Dam Safety Projects pending Insurance Claims and Reimbursements
- Construction-Ready Boating Access Site Project (Design completed during FY20)



FY21 Capital Budget Request

Project Description	Capital Account	Cost Center Number	Funding	Cost Estimate
King & Queen Pond Liners	Maintenance Reserve	13316-004	State	\$600,000
Osbourne Landing (Dredging)	Maintenance Reserve	13316-014	State	\$291,024
Dick Cross Shop Roof	Maintenance Reserve	13316-xxx	State	\$18,500
Shenandoah High Hazard Dam	High Hazard Dam	17970-023	Bonds	\$326,740
Penhook On-Water Storage for Improve Wildlife Management Patrol Boats	Areas	18103-009	State	\$500,000
King & Queen Dam - Planning	State Dam Safety	18105-002	State/Insurance	\$55,994
Powhatan Dam - Planning	State Dam Safety	18105-003	State/Insurance	\$41,659
Fluvanna Dam - Planning	State Dam Safety	18105-004	State/Insurance	\$55,449
Shenandoah Dam Phase 1	State Dam Safety	18105-005	State/Insurance	\$58,228
Briery Creek Landing	Improve Boating Access	18106-010	Federal	\$304,833
TOTAL				\$2,252,427



MOTION:

To recommend adoption of the FY21 Operating Budget and Capital Budget, as presented.





Questions?



DEPARTMENT OF GAME AND INLAND FISHERIES

BOARD MEETING AGENDA ITEM

BOARD MEETING DATE: May 27, 2020

DIVISION: Wildlife Resources

PRESENTER: Ryan J. Brown

DATE SUBMITTED: May 18, 2020

SUBMITTED BY: Rebecca Gwynn

SUBJECT:

Board action on DGIF's application to place regulatory waterway markers around a portion of Rip Raps Island (Fort Wool) and an adjacent artificial island of barges within the limits of the City of Hampton at the confluence of the James River and Chesapeake Bay.

BACKGROUND:

In response to Governor Northam's directive on February 14, 2020, the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries has established new nesting habitat in the City of Hampton for the Commonwealth's largest seabird colony. The DGIF has converted Fort Wool/Rip Raps Island (adjacent to South Island of the Hampton Roads Bridge-Tunnel complex) to a suitable nesting area and has completed the installation of an artificial island, formed from barges, in the embayment between Fort Wool and South Island.

Typically, in a colony such as this, outside disturbances will cause many, if not all, of the birds to flush. Such action is particularly problematic when adults are incubating eggs or caring for dependent chicks. Significant disturbances may cause adults to abandon nests or subject chicks to predation by other bird species. DGIF staffs and contractors on South Island have observed the public boating to Rip Raps Island using kayaks, motorboats and sailboats. While the island has been posted and is closed to the public, violations are occurring. *The establishment of a "No Boats" zone, consistent with §29.1-744(B), around the exposed area of the island and the barge island will protect the birds, protect the boating public (especially around the barges and rip rap), and contribute to the success of this conservation initiative.*

The DGIF's application for the regulatory markers, with supplemental information, is included in this packet. Such applications require Board approval prior to implementation.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the Board approve the application for the placement of regulatory waterway markers around a portion of Rip Raps Island (Fort Wool) and an adjacent artificial island of barges within the limits of the City of Hampton at the confluence of the James River and Chesapeake Bay

**COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT OF GAME AND INLAND FISHERIES**

Application for Establishment of Regulatory Markers on Public Waters of Virginia

Date of Application: May 18, 2020 Proposed Date of Installation: June 1, 2020

A. APPLICANT

1. Name of Political Subdivision or Agency: Dept. of Game & Inland Fisheries
Telephone Number: (804) 389-3953
2. Name and address of individual to be responsible for installation and maintenance:
Rebecca Gwynn, Assistant Chief, Wildlife Resources, 7870 Villa Park Dr., #400, Henrico, VA 23228
Daytime Tel. No. (804) 389-3953

B. NECESSITY OF REASON FOR REQUESTED MARKERS – See attached

1. Attach a letter, with two signed copies, addressed to the correct regional office:
Please follow this link www.dgif.virginia.gov/about/offices/ to find the appropriate region office to mail your application Attn: Region Captain
NOTE: In the City of Richmond, please mail to the Charles City Regional office.
2. Political subdivision – attach three copies of public notice and proposed regulation or ordinance, which has been issued prior to this application.

C. LOCATION OF MARKERS

Body of Water: James River/Chesapeake Bay **County:** City of Hampton

1. Attach three copies of a map, chart section, or drawing to a scale which will readily depict the proposed zoned area to its surroundings showing the location of each marker to be placed in the water and its relation to nearby channels and water patterns. Have inset or attachment showing type of marker to be used at each location.

Latitude: See attached for location **Longitude:** _____

D. MARKERS

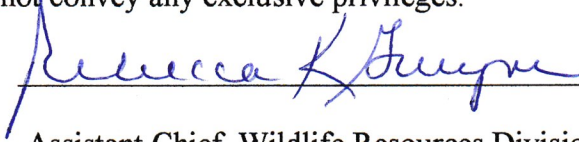
Type and Number of Markers: Regulatory Buoy (ultra heavy duty) 9” diam B961R; approximately 13 markers; labeled “No Boats”

1. All markers must conform to specification as listed in Rules of Establishment of Uniform Regulatory Markers. State below names of manufacturer of commercial markers that will be used, or, if obtained otherwise, indicate source.
Roylan Buoys (www.roylanbuoys.com)

E. CERTIFICATION

The applicant hereby agrees and certifies that all markers authorized by the Department will be installed and maintained at no expense to the Department; that all such markers will conform to the specifications, standards and conditions set forth in "Rules for Establishment of State Uniform Regulatory Markers on Public Waters of Virginia" and may be inspected at any time, without prior notice, by authorized personnel. Should markers not be maintained in satisfactory condition, the Department may order them removed at no expense to the Department. The applicant agrees that the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries will not be held liable with respect to any and all claims that may result from the installation and maintenance of such markers and the marking of any waters does not convey any exclusive privileges.

Signature



Title

Assistant Chief, Wildlife Resources Division, DGIF

INSTRUCTIONS:

Please follow this link <http://www.dgif.virginia.gov/about/offices/> to find the appropriate regional office to mail your application Attn: Region Captain.

NOTE: In the City of Richmond, please mail to the Charles City Regional office.



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Matthew J. Strickler
Secretary of Natural Resources

Department of Game and Inland Fisheries

Ryan Brown
Executive Director

May 18, 2020

CERTIFICATION OF NEED FOR REGULATORY WATERWAY MARKERS SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

Location: City of Hampton

Waterbody: Embayment between South Island (Hampton Roads Bridge-Tunnel) and Rip Raps Island (confluence of James River/Chesapeake Bay)

Action: Establishment of a “No Boats” zone to encompass exposed area of Rip Raps Island and artificial barge island to protect nesting seabird colony from human disturbance

Background: In response to Governor Northam’s directive on February 14, 2020, the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries has established new nesting habitat in the City of Hampton for the Commonwealth’s largest seabird colony. The DGIF has converted the open parade ground on Fort Wool/Rip Raps Island (adjacent to South Island of the Hampton Roads Bridge-Tunnel complex) to a suitable nesting area and has completed the installation of an artificial island, formed from barges, in the embayment between Fort Wool and South Island.

The seabird colony for which this habitat has been created includes a number of species of conservation concern, particularly Sandwich Tern, Common Tern, Gull-billed Tern (state threatened), Royal Tern, and Black Skimmer. Laughing Gulls, a species with recent precipitous declines in population, are also part of the colony. Within two weeks of completion, the DGIF has already documented more than 2,000 birds using Fort Wool for nesting. Within days of installation, staffs documented a number of pairs of Common Terns and Black Skimmers already on the barges and exhibiting courtship behaviors.

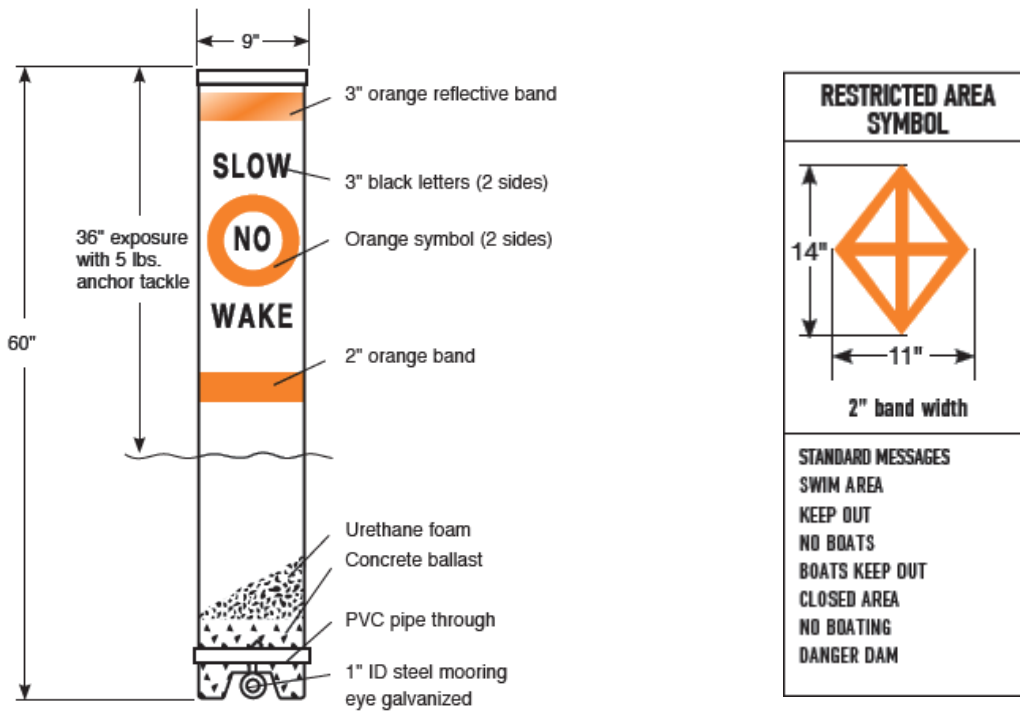
Typically, in a colony such as this, outside disturbances will cause many, if not all, of the birds to flush. Such action is particularly problematic when adults are incubating eggs or caring for dependent chicks. Significant disturbances may cause adults to abandon nests or subject chicks to predation by other bird species. DGIF staffs and contractors on South Island have observed the public boating to Rip Raps Island using kayaks, motorboats and sailboats. While the island has been posted and is closed to the public, violations are occurring. *The establishment of a “No Boats” zone around the exposed area of the island and the barge island will protect the birds, protect the boating public (especially around the barges and rip rap), and contribute to the success of this conservation initiative.*

Anticipated Placement of Buoys



*Distances range from 150 to 450 feet from the buoy line to birds on Fort Wool or the barges.

Proposed Markers (B961R)



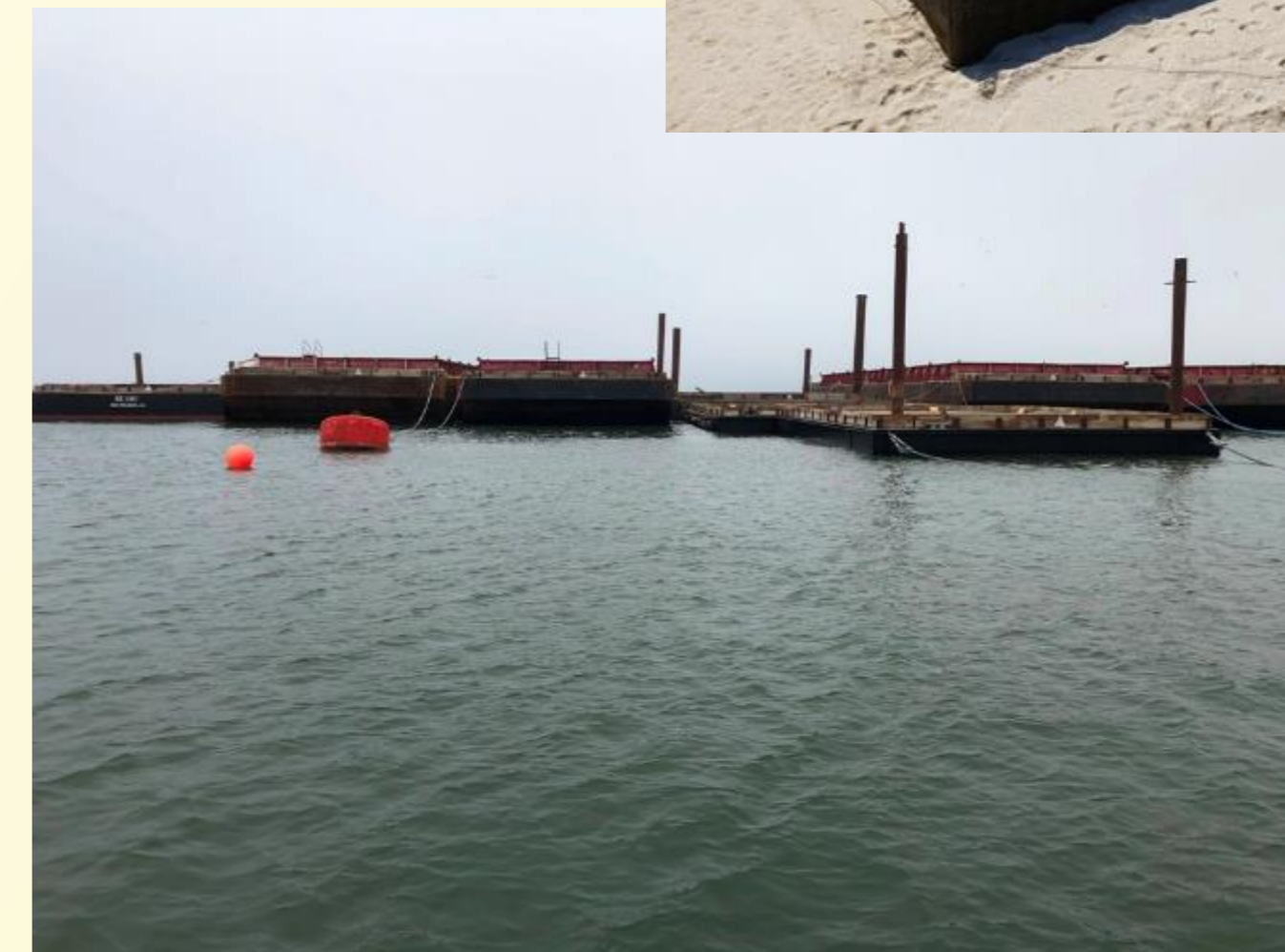
Regulatory Waterway Markers

Fort Wool/Barge Island



Need for Regulatory Waterway Markers

- Habitat for seabird colony created near HRBT
- 5 species of conservation concern, including state listed Gull-billed Tern
- Concern for human disturbance of the colony
- Concern for public safety around barge island

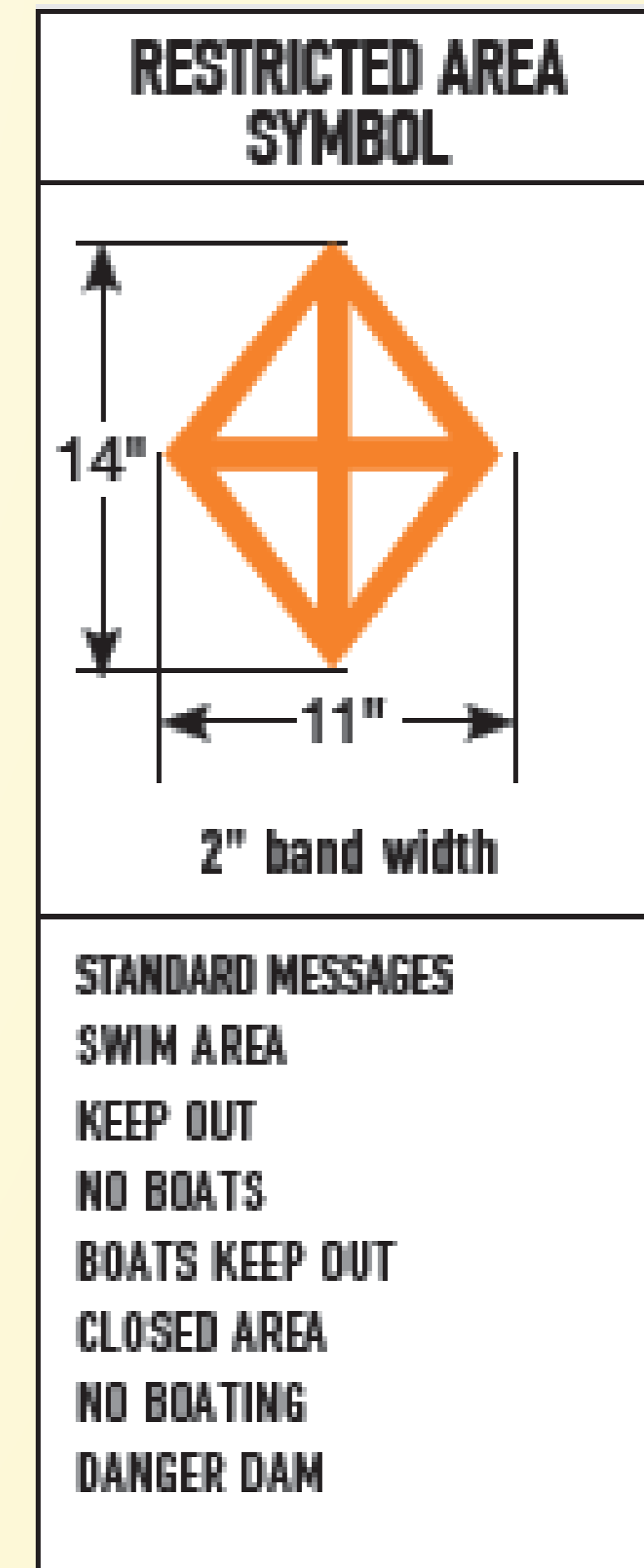
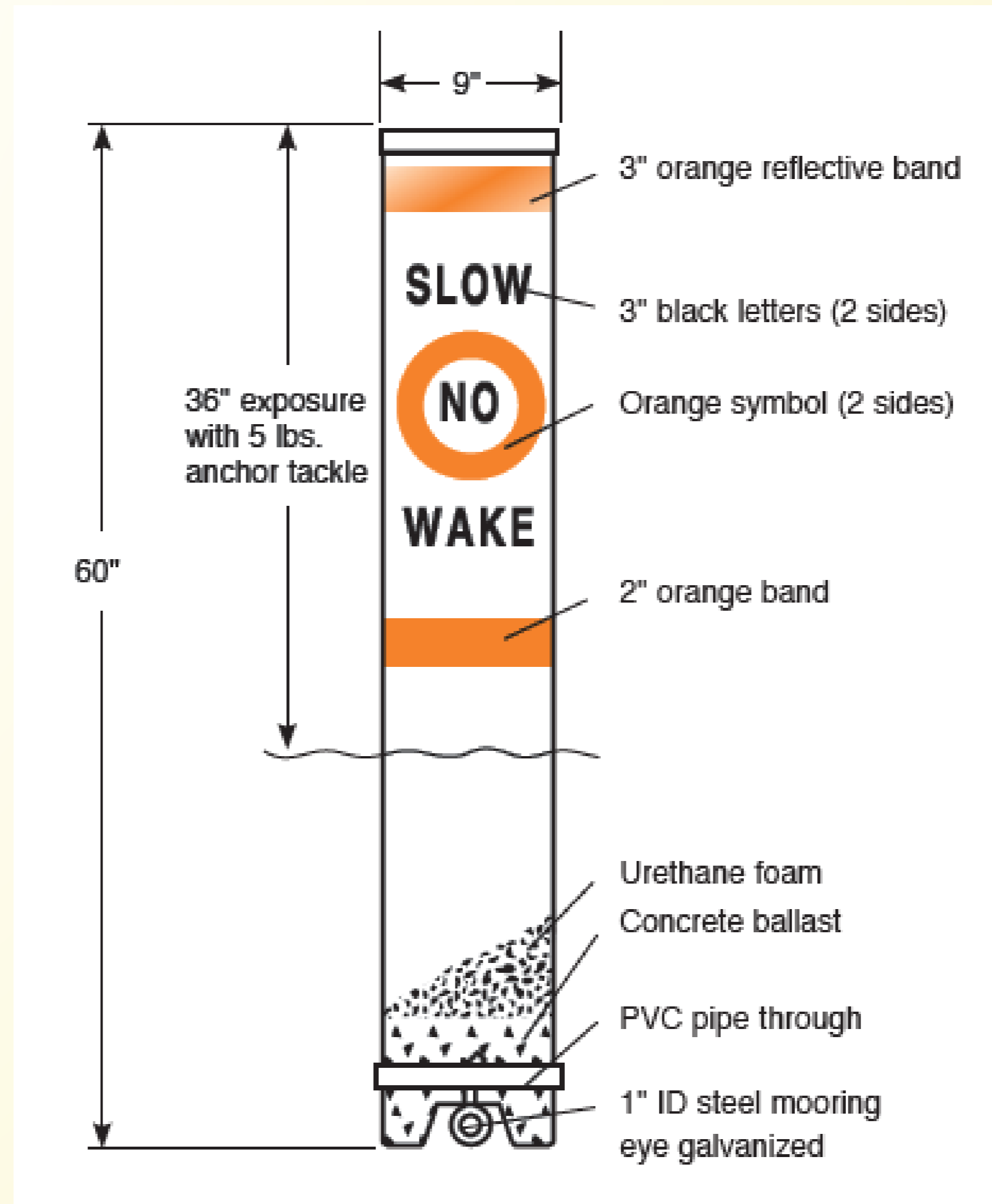


Proposed Line of Placement of Markers



Proposed Markers

- B961R
- Ultra heavy-duty
- 9" diameter
- Restricted Area
- "No Boats"



Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends the approval by the Board, via motion, of the request to place regulatory waterway markers at the identified location in the City of Hampton at the confluence of the James River and Chesapeake Bay.

