

BOATING ACCESS PROGRAM

UPDATED 1/2018

Fish and Wildlife Service, Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program



DISTRIBUTION METHOD

Apportioned based
on formula

Governing Guidance

- Sport Fish Restoration Act also known as Dingell-Johnson (DJ) Act of 1950 (enabling legislation)
- 50 CFR Part 80
- USFWS Manual Chapter 517 FW 7

ELIGIBLE GRANTEES: ALL STATE/TERRITORY FISH AND WILDLIFE AGENCIES WITH ASSENT LEGISLATION

Purpose Provide facilities that create or add to public access for recreational boating

ELIGIBLE PROJECTS

→ A broad range of access facilities and associated amenities that benefit recreation boaters may qualify

- Projects that seek to acquire, develop, renovate, maintain, or improve facilities that create or improve public access to the waters of the United States or improve the suitability of these waters for recreational boating. These facilities may include auxiliary structures to ensure safe use by recreational boaters. Projects may include surveys to determine information needed to plan for providing access to recreational waters for any size or type of recreational boat
- Maintenance and operations projects can be funded for boating access sites, facilities, and structures, even if the Sport Fish Restoration Program did not fund their acquisition or construction
- Facilities funded through the subprogram must be available to all recreational boaters, but States may restrict uses for public safety, property protection, noise abatement, or aquatic resource protection. Examples of restrictions include limiting the horsepower or types of boat motors and setting speed limits, no-wake zones, or hours of use
- States are responsible for maintenance of all capital improvements they acquire or construct using Sport Fish Restoration Boating Access funds throughout the improvement's planned useful life.

SOURCE OF FUNDS

Annual apportionment from the Sport Fish Restoration & Boating Trust Fund

Includes Revenues from:

- Excise taxes on sport fishing equipment and electric motors
- Import duties on fishing tackle, yachts, and pleasure craft
- Portion of gasoline tax attributable to motorboats and small engines
- Interest earned on Trust Fund

MATCHING REQUIREMENTS AND LIMITATIONS ON AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS

- States may be paid up to 75% federal funding, 25% required from non-federal sources
- At least 15% of the Region's Sport Fish Restoration apportionment over a five-year period must be allocated for Boating Access projects
- WSFR calculates the Regional allocations for separate five-year periods that coincide with Federal fiscal calendars (i.e. 2013-2017, 2018-2022)
- With Regional Director approval, a State may change its current year allocation up to, but not after, the close of the Federal fiscal year which funds were apportioned
- States must use Boating Access funds in the year that the State receives them, or in the following four fiscal years, otherwise the funds will revert to the Service and be reapportioned
- If the primary project purpose is to benefit users who are not recreational boaters, program funds may only be used to the extent that recreational boaters use a facility and other expenses must be matched through other methods. For example, if survey information shows that only 40% of facility's users are recreational boaters, program funds can account for no more than 40% of project costs

SPECIAL CONDITIONS OR REQUIREMENTS

- ◆ State fish and wildlife agencies are responsible for maintaining capital improvements to ensure that they serve its authorized purpose during its useful life.
- ◆ State fish and wildlife agencies must control the parcel of land and water on which it completes a grant-funded capital improvement. Control must be adequate for the protection, maintenance, and use of the improvement for its authorized purpose during its useful life.