



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Washington, D.C. 20240

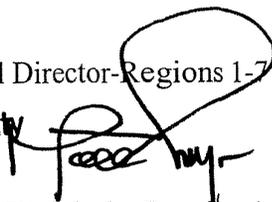


In Reply Refer to:
FWS/AMBS/017447

JUN 10 2004

Memorandum

To: Regional Director-Regions 1-7

From: Deputy Director 

Subject: Projects Eligible for Boating Access Funding

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide policy guidance that will be implemented uniformly throughout the Regions regarding projects eligible for funding under the Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration Act boating access sub-activity 9520. This issue was reviewed by the Joint Federal/State Task Force on Federal Assistance Policy (JTF) during the January 13-15, 2004, meeting of the JTF in Las Vegas, Nevada. The JTF decided a Director's Order on this issue was not necessary. However, the JTF did recommend that the Service provide guidance to the Regions on this issue. This is the Service's guidance that includes a list of examples of activities "away from the dock" that are eligible for boating access funding.

The current regulation regarding boating access in 50CFR80.24 states, "The State shall allocate at least 10 percent of each annual apportionment under Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Act for recreational boating access facilities. All facilities constructed, acquired, developed, renovated, or maintained (including those existing structures for which maintenance is provided) must be for the purpose of providing additional, improved, or safer access of public waters for boating recreation as part of the State's effort for the restoration, management, and public use of sport fish. Though a broad range of access facilities and associated amenities can qualify for funding under the 10 percent provision, ..." Because this guidance is general in nature, this memorandum conveys specific examples of projects "away from the dock" (see Exhibit 1) that are eligible for boating access funds. The list of examples is provided to assist Service and State fish and wildlife agency staff during the development of the Federal Assistance grant agreement.

Note that the most recent minimum percent of each annual Sport Fish Restoration apportionment a State must allocate for recreational boating access facilities was set at 15 percent in 1998 by the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (P.L. 105-178).

If there should be any questions regarding the above policy guidance, contact Kris LaMontagne, Chief, Division of Federal Assistance at, (703) 358-2156.

Attachment

Exhibit 1

Examples of Projects Eligible for Recreational Boating Access Funds Through the Sport Fish Restoration Program.

This exhibit provides a partial list of examples of eligible projects to prompt discussion between Service and State fish and wildlife agency staff during the development of the grant agreement.

- Launching facilities, such as ramps and boat lifts.
- Breakwaters.
- Marinas, including moorage facilities and dockage for transient motorboat users (stopping only briefly, not to exceed 10 days).
- Land acquisition and development of fishing lakes and ponds (providing motorboats can be accommodated).
- Fish cleaning stations.
- Restrooms, sewage treatment facilities, showers, potable water, security lights, trash receptacles, and parking areas associated with the access facilities.
- Pumpout and dump stations.
- Camping facilities at areas accessible only by boat (must be accessible to motorboats).
- Access roads, bridges, signals, and other requirements to provide the public access to boating facilities.
- Engineering costs (planning and construction) as well as the costs of environmental assessments and permit applications.
- Water rights for the purpose of securing boating access.
- Dredging, stump removal, and aquatic weed control when activity can be shown to clear lanes to make water body more accessible primarily for recreational motorboats as opposed to general navigation.
- Navigational aids in the immediate area of access facilities.
- Operation and maintenance of access facilities (note, Federal Assistance funds cannot be used to operate or maintain properties or facilities purchased or constructed under the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act [16 U.S.C. 4601-8]).
- Signage for effective use of access facilities and recognition of Sport Fish Restoration Program.
- Publication of guides, brochures, maps, road signs, Internet sites, and other aids to inform boaters of access sites.
- Projects that compensate/mitigate for natural resource losses caused by an eligible activity.