



# United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
Washington, D.C. 20240



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Memorandum

To: Regional Directors, Regions 1-8

From: Director

Deputy

Subject: Clean Vessel Act Program

Nearly 20 years after passage of the Clean Vessel Act, State and Federal agencies as well as boaters and the boating community have deemed the Clean Vessel Act Grant Program (CVA) a success. CVA has fostered significant advances towards reducing the environmental impacts of recreational boating. Since 1992, more than \$150 million has been invested through CVA grants to States, Commonwealths, and territories for the construction and maintenance of pumpout facilities.

In 2006, at the Service's request, the Sport Fishing and Boating Partnership Council (Council) undertook a systematic evaluation of CVA. The final Council report, dated January 2008, confirmed the success of CVA and made several recommendations for the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program (WSFR). Recommendations included fine tuning processes that are already in place and developing other processes that will require the commitment of the Service, States, and the boating community.

The Service is working with the Council, States, and boating and angling interests to address the recommendations, building on the CVA'S track record of success. WSFR has begun the process of revising CVA regulations and developing a Service manual chapter for CVA administration. In the interim, this memorandum addresses Regional consistency, transparency, and fiscal accountability.

This memorandum revises previous guidance from the Service Director, dated October 6, 1998 (Attachment 1). The updated guidance in this memorandum is effective as of the date signed, but does not affect CVA awards made prior to the FY 2010 budget cycle.

Please note that there is a change in eligibility determination for the State of Alaska beginning in the FY 2010 CVA award cycle. Based on the ratio of currently registered recreational boats to shoreline miles, Alaska has met the legislative requirements to compete as a coastal State in CVA.

1. APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS: A Notice of Available Funds and Request for Applications (RFA) is published annually on Grants.gov. Applicants will have



approximately 90 days from the RFA publication date to submit a complete application to Regional Offices by the application deadline (specified in the RFA). The RFA includes applicant eligibility and CVA ranking criteria, detailed application submission information, conditions for award, and contact information.

2. CVA COASTAL AND INLAND PROGRAMS: States must submit separate, complete applications for consideration for the coastal and inland portions of CVA. The required forms, components, and supporting documentation of competitive applications are detailed in the annual RFA. Applications for coastal project pumpouts and/or waste reception facilities must be for projects located in coastal areas and applications for inland project pumpouts and/or waste reception facilities must be for projects located in inland areas, as defined by 50 CFR 85.

3. ELIGIBILITY DETERMINATION AND RANKING OF CVA APPLICATIONS: Regional CVA specialists will have approximately 30 days following the application deadline to review submissions for eligibility and substantiality. During this period, the specialists may request clarification and supplemental documentation from applicants to be included in the application. However, we will not permit substantive changes to content after the application deadline. The Regional Offices will forward the applications to the Washington Office for scoring and ranking by an annually specified date. Review of final scores and the ranking of the applications will be done in collaboration with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the U.S. Coast Guard, as specified in 50 CFR 85.

4. ANNUAL REPORTING REQUIREMENTS: There are annual financial and performance reporting requirements for all CVA grants. Reporting requirements, including retention and access requirements, are specified in 43 CFR 12.82. Additional information is available in the "Interim Guidance for Financial and Performance Reporting" on the Service website (<http://wsfrprograms.fws.gov/subpages/toolkitfiles/intgdrpt.pdf>). Additionally, CVA performance reports must include the locations of all grant-funded CVA facilities (identified by address and/or the latitude/longitude of the facility) and include copies of any educational materials produced through this program. Facilities and educational materials are expected to display the CVA symbol (located in the WSFR toolkit: <http://wsfrprograms.fws.gov/subpages/toolkitfiles/fasymb.pdf>).

5. OBLIGATION AND EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS: Awards are available for obligation until the end of the preceding fiscal year they were awarded, i.e., funds awarded from Fiscal Year 2010 (which begins October 1, 2009) must be obligated by the end of Fiscal Year 2011 (September 30, 2011). Obligated funds are available until expended within the approved grant period, not to exceed four years, including extensions. Funds that are not obligated within the specified period and recovered funds (funds that are not expended by the end of the grant period, including extensions) will be returned to the WSFR Washington Office and made available during the following CVA competitive cycle.

6. EXCEPTIONS: Requests to extend grant periods over four years or to amend the scope of a CVA grant award must be justified in writing and approved by the Assistant Director, WSFR.

Please contact Hannibal Bolton, Assistant Director, WSFR, at 202-208-7337, if you have any questions.

Attachment