

Service Awards More Than \$14 Million In Clean Vessel Act Grants

Funding supports clean waters and recreational boating

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) announced today that more than \$14.7 million will be awarded to 23 states under the Clean Vessel Act (CVA) grant program in 2013.

The first Clean Vessel Act awards were made in 1993. Since that time the Service's Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program has awarded more than \$200 million to states for projects funding construction, replacement, renovation, and maintenance of facilities that assist recreational boaters in properly disposing of on-board septic waste. The program also provides information and education on the importance, benefits, and availability of pump outs.

"Clean Vessel Act grants are essential to ensure clean water and healthy environments that allow for recreational boating opportunities," said Service Director Dan Ashe. "The CVA program has a substantial economic impact on local communities, which is a win-win situation for conservation initiatives and businesses across America."

Funds for the CVA program are provided annually from the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust fund. These funds are derived through the collection of fishing tackle manufacturer excise taxes and boat and fishing import duties as well as motorboat and small engine fuel taxes. The program supports the user-pay, public-benefit cycle that has led to the successes of the Sport Fish Restoration programs. States apply for CVA funding and they or their partners provide matching funds to complete projects. Sub-grantees often include local municipalities and private marinas.

In addition to traditional on-dock pump outs, projects include pumpout boats that travel in designated harbors to make the sewage collection process more efficient and convenient. Some states also install floating restrooms in areas where boaters congregate and no restrooms are available.

"The Clean Vessel Act is a critical tool in helping the states to maintain clean and healthy waters for people and wildlife alike," said Assistant Director Hannibal Bolton of the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program. "The pump outs built through these funds ensure that clean drinking water, sustainable ecosystems, and healthy recreational areas will be accessible to the American people."

For more information on the 2013 grant awards made today visit:

<http://wsfrprograms.fws.gov/Subpages/GrantPrograms/CVA/CVA2013Funding.pdf>

For more information on the CVA program visit:

<http://wsfrprograms.fws.gov/Subpages/GrantPrograms/CVA/CVA.htm>

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. We are both a leader and trusted partner in fish and wildlife conservation, known for our scientific excellence, stewardship of lands and natural resources, dedicated professionals and commitment to public service. For more information on our work and the people who make it happen, visit www.fws.gov. Connect with our Facebook page at [facebook.com/usfwsmidwest](https://www.facebook.com/usfwsmidwest), follow our tweets at twitter.com/usfwsmidwest, watch our YouTube Channel at [youtube.com/usfws](https://www.youtube.com/usfws) and download photos from our Flickr page at [flickr.com/photos/usfwsmidwest](https://www.flickr.com/photos/usfwsmidwest)

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