



Joint News Release



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Alaska Department of Fish and Game to Receive Nearly \$48 Million from Fish and Wildlife Restoration Programs

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service recently announced that it will distribute nearly \$48 million to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game through the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration and Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration programs. More than \$29 million will be for wildlife research and management, public access to wildlife resources, and hunter education programs and shooting ranges. Over \$18 million will be for sport fish research and management, public access to waters for recreational boaters and anglers, aquatic education programs, and sport fish hatcheries.

“Paid for by anglers, hunters, and trappers, the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration programs are undoubtedly the most successful fish and wildlife conservation programs in the world,” said Commissioner Sam Cotten. “Since the inception of these programs, the funds have allowed our biologists to ensure that innumerable fish and wildlife species in our state not only persist, but thrive to provide sustainable food resources, recreational opportunities, and enhance the health and well-being of Alaskans, Americans, and fish and wildlife enthusiasts around the globe.”

The Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration and Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration programs are the nation’s oldest and most successful fish and wildlife restoration programs. The two programs are funded by excise taxes collected from the sales of hunting and fishing gear, guns, ammunition and boat fuel. This user-pay, public-benefit program provides funding to states for fish and wildlife conservation, public access to fishing and hunting areas and shooting ranges, hunter education programs and vital fish and wildlife surveys and research. Nationally, over \$18 billion has gone to states through these two programs.

“Fishing, hunting, shooting and boating are important outdoor traditions in Alaska,” said Geoffrey Haskett, Regional Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife in Alaska. “With funding from the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration programs the Alaska Department of Fish and Game will

be able to accomplish more great work so that quality opportunities are available now and in the future.”

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The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service works with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. For more information, visit www.fws.gov, or connect with us through social media at <http://www.fws.gov/home/socialmedia/index.html>.

The Alaska Department of Fish and Games’ mission is to protect, maintain, and improve the fish, game, and aquatic plant resources of the state, and manage their use and development in the best interest of the economy and the well-being of the people of the state, consistent with the sustained yield principle. For more information, visit www.adfg.alaska.gov