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FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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NEARLY \$4 $\frac{1}{2}$  MILLION GOES TO STATES FOR FISH RESTORATION

The popularity of new types of sport fishing equipment sold during fiscal year 1954 resulted in the sum of \$4,422,800 in Federal Aid funds being made available to the 48 States for sport fishery restoration projects during fiscal year 1955, Acting Secretary of the Interior Ralph A. Tudor said today.

This amount is an increase of \$122,884 compared to last year's apportionment of \$4,299,916.

These Federal funds become available to the States under the terms of the Federal Aid in Fish Restoration Act of August 9, 1950, probably better known as the "Dingell-Johnson Act." This program, now in its fourth year of operation, is enabling the States to create new public fishing lakes, restore many unproductive waters, and put research findings to better use.

The revenue for the Federal share of the program comes from the 10 percent excise tax on fishing rods, creels, reels, and artificial lures, baits, and flies, paid by the manufacturers of those products. Collections from this source during the year ended June 30, 1954, totaled \$4,625,338. From this total is taken the annual apportionments of \$75,000 to Alaska, \$25,000 to Hawaii, \$10,000 to the Virgin Islands, and the cost of administering the act by the Fish and Wildlife Service.

To provide a fair distribution of Federal funds, each State's share is based on the relation of the number of its paid fishing license holders to the total in all States, and the ratio of each State's area (including coastal and Great Lakes waters) to the area of the entire country.

The Act also states "that no State can receive less than one percent nor more than five percent of the total apportioned to all States." This provision allows the small States enough working capital to finance comparatively big projects, while the large States will be able to receive only the maximum amount. On this basis California, Michigan, and Minnesota are given the maximum apportionment this year of \$221,140 each, while Connecticut, Delaware, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Rhode Island, Vermont, and West Virginia will receive the minimum of \$44,228 each.

To obtain the benefits of the Federal grants, the States submit project proposals to the Fish and Wildlife Service. Acting for the Secretary of the Interior, the Service reviews these proposals to learn whether they are substantial in character and design, within the meaning of the Act. When a project is approved, the State game and fish departments proceed to carry out the plans, spending their

own funds. The States then submit reimbursement claims for 75 percent of the costs of the project, either periodically or at the completion of the work. The remaining 25 percent of project expenditures is financed out of regular State funds. All equipment, lands, and structures become the property of the States. All project workers are hired by the States and are State employees.

Apportionments to the 48 States for fiscal year 1955 are as follows:

Alabama	\$57,785	Nebraska	\$70,389
Arizona	73,701	Nevada	62,625
Arkansas	85,718	New Hampshire	44,228
California	221,140	New Jersey	44,228
Colorado	108,340	New Mexico	77,373
Connecticut	44,228	New York	148,157
Delaware	44,228	North Carolina	77,894
Florida	81,052	North Dakota	46,663
Georgia	88,062	Ohio	141,308
Idaho	77,356	Oklahoma	97,191
Illinois	154,490	Oregon	94,963
Indiana	101,448	Pennsylvania	137,715
Iowa	81,305	Rhode Island	44,228
Kansas	83,060	South Carolina	56,952
Kentucky	87,426	South Dakota	57,487
Louisiana	44,228	Tennessee	134,700
Maine	47,697	Texas	192,805
Maryland	44,228	Utah	63,168
Massachusetts	44,228	Vermont	44,228
Michigan	221,140	Virginia	71,186
Minnesota	221,140	Washington	105,139
Mississippi	50,402	West Virginia	44,228
Missouri	130,340	Wisconsin	190,591
Montana	105,883	Wyoming	76,730

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