

DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife

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MORE THAN \$5 MILLION IN SPORT FISH RESTORATION FUNDS IS DISTRIBUTED TO STATES

Distribution of more than \$5 million in Federal Aid funds to the 50 States, Guam, the Virgin Islands, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, for sport fish restoration was announced today by Secretary of the Interior Walter J. Hickel.

This supplements an apportionment of \$6,000,000 made in June, bringing the total for fiscal year 1970 to a record \$11,330,000. The previous high was \$9,330,000 in fiscal year 1968.

These funds come from the 10 percent manufacturers' excise tax on fishing rods, reels, creels, and artificial baits, lures, and flies. Under the Federal Aid in Fish Restoration Act of 1950, popularly known as the Dingell-Johnson Act, funds are apportioned to the States using a formula based on area of the State and the number of paid fishing license holders.

Since fiscal year 1952, nearly \$113 million has been provided for State fish and game land acquisition, research, and development projects. Many vital conservation projects approved by the Interior Department are conducted by State fish and game agencies. States are reimbursed with Federal funds, up to 75 percent of total costs.

State matching funds are derived almost entirely from fishing license fees paid by anglers. Therefore, sport fishermen pay for the program which benefits not only themselves, but provides other recreation benefits to the non-fisherman. These other recreational activities include boating, swimming, camping, and picnicking. In addition, research and development projects carried on under this program have helped improve water quality.

In 1968, about 66 million man-days of fishing were provided by this program which also yielded 16 million visitor-days for other recreational activities.

Projects financed under the Dingell-Johnson program are selected by the States. Some States have used these funds to concentrate on fishery management research. Others without much water have preferred to acquire dam sites and construct public fishing lakes. Access to public waterways providing boat-launching ramps, roads, and parking areas have been acquired in some places. These uses mean better fishing for the public.

A booklet "15 Years of Better Fishing," which describes in more detail the Federal Aid in Fish Restoration Program, is available from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, for 50 cents. Apportionments by State are attached.

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Apportionment for Federal Aid in Fish Restoration

Fiscal Year 1970

Alabama	\$	201,433
Alaska		565,000
Arizona		233,929
Arkansas		219,828
California		565,000
Colorado		255,927
Connecticut		113,000
Delaware		113,000
Florida		248,675
Georgia		241,250
Hawaii		113,000
Idaho		192,422
Illinois		293,590
Indiana		225,039
Iowa		190,032
Kansas		193,393
Kentucky		174,847
Louisiana		148,224
Maine		113,000
Maryland		113,000
Massachusetts		113,000
Michigan		396,528
Minnesota		507,304
Mississippi		158,315
Missouri		295,666
Montana		248,536
Nebraska		161,945
Nevada		177,293
New Hampshire		113,000
New Jersey		113,000
New Mexico		200,147
New York		302,965
North Carolina		195,068
North Dakota		121,723
Ohio		287,148
Oklahoma		223,334
Oregon		293,969
Pennsylvania		228,814
Rhode Island		113,000
South Carolina		149,086
South Dakota		154,197
Tennessee		275,887
Texas		565,000
Utah		188,651
Vermont		113,000
Virginia		170,761
Washington		219,622
West Virginia		113,000
Wisconsin		412,078
Wyoming		174,374
Guam		10,000
Puerto Rico		10,000
Virgin Islands		10,000
<u>Total</u>		<u>\$11,330,000</u>