

# DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

For Release June 15, 1975

McGarvey 202/343-5634

## FISH AND WILDLIFE AID TO STATES TOPS \$43 MILLION

Over \$43 million of Federal Aid funds for sport fish and wildlife restoration and hunter safety programs has been apportioned by the Secretary of the Interior to the States and the governments of Puerto Rico, Guam, the Virgin Islands, and American Samoa for use after July 1.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Director Lynn A. Greenwalt said the \$43 million is the first of two installments that will be distributed to the States this year from excise taxes collected in fiscal year 1975, which ends June 30. It will be used by the States to finance their fish and wildlife programs during the first half of fiscal year 1976. The second installment will be distributed in December after the tally of FY 75 tax receipts is completed by the Treasury Department. Last fiscal year a total of \$70 million in Federal Aid funds was distributed in two installments to State governments.

Funds for fish restoration programs come from a 10 percent excise tax on fishing rods, reels, creels, and artificial baits, lures, and flies. Funds for wildlife restoration and hunter safety programs come from an 11 percent excise tax on sporting arms and ammunition and a 10 percent excise tax on pistols and revolvers.

"This self-taxing concept has stood the test of 37 years," Greenwalt said. "Since 1938 over \$700 million has been collected in excise taxes on these items. Fifty percent of these funds has gone into improving

habitat for game such as building dikes to impound duck marshes, constructing watering sites on desert lands for quail and deer, managing forest lands, and fencing elk and deer from farmlands. Twenty-five percent has supported research into such things as census-guided selection of hunting seasons and bag limits and life history studies on a variety of animals such as wolves, grizzly bears, and the Florida panther. Another 20 percent has been spent buying or leasing land such as prairie duck sloughs, winter big game ranges, bottom lands, desert lands--in all, more than 54 million acres or over 84,000 square miles, an area larger than the six New England States, Maryland, and Hawaii combined. Only 5 percent of the funds has gone to administrative overhead."

Of the distribution announced today, \$30 million was distributed according to a formula based on hunting license holders and the area of each State for wildlife projects. Another \$2.6 million was distributed, on the basis of State population, for hunter safety programs. Under the Federal Aid to Fish Restoration Program, \$10.8 million was distributed on a formula based on the number of sport fishing license holders and the area of each State.

The attached tables show funds distributed by State. Texas, Alaska, California, Pennsylvania, and Michigan are the largest recipients with at least \$1.1 million going to each. Maximum and minimum limits are placed on the distribution of these funds so that States smaller in area and population like Delaware, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Hawaii receive reasonable apportionments.

Apportionment for Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration  
Fiscal Year 1976

	<u>Wildlife</u> <u>Restoration</u>	<u>Hunter</u> <u>Safety</u>	<u>Total</u>
Alabama	\$ 527,877	\$ 65,467	\$ 593,344
Alaska	1,500,000	26,000	1,526,000
Arizona	682,342	26,000	708,342
Arkansas	547,430	26,000	573,430
California	1,329,760	78,000	1,407,760
Colorado	769,957	41,956	811,913
Connecticut	150,000	57,636	207,636
Delaware	150,000	26,000	176,000
Florida	508,081	78,000	586,081
Georgia	583,704	78,000	661,704
Hawaii	150,000	26,000	176,000
Idaho	609,586	26,000	635,586
Illinois	688,206	78,000	766,206
Indiana	575,226	78,000	653,226
Iowa	557,781	53,698	611,479
Kansas	589,517	42,750	632,267
Kentucky	443,268	61,192	504,460
Louisiana	530,694	69,249	599,943
Maine	332,920	26,000	358,920
Maryland	212,393	74,556	286,949
Massachusetts	150,000	78,000	228,000
Michigan	1,023,422	78,000	1,101,422
Minnesota	761,629	72,327	833,956
Mississippi	500,537	42,139	542,676
Missouri	742,086	78,000	820,086
Montana	890,026	26,000	916,026
Nebraska	536,689	26,000	562,689
Nevada	582,230	26,000	608,230
New Hampshire	150,000	26,000	176,000
New Jersey	194,233	78,000	272,233
New Mexico	704,011	26,000	730,011
New York	865,965	78,000	943,965
North Carolina	620,907	78,000	698,907
North Dakota	421,736	26,000	447,736
Ohio	708,249	78,000	786,249
Oklahoma	558,577	48,646	607,223
Oregon	774,401	39,753	814,154
Pennsylvania	1,226,506	78,000	1,304,506
Rhode Island	150,000	26,000	176,000
South Carolina	319,850	49,240	369,090
South Dakota	527,775	26,000	553,775
Tennessee	643,071	74,590	717,661
Texas	1,500,000	78,000	1,578,000
Utah	608,527	26,000	634,527
Vermont	181,421	26,000	207,421
Virginia	601,755	78,000	679,755
Washington	604,695	64,801	669,496
West Virginia	349,817	26,000	375,817
Wisconsin	820,273	78,000	898,273
Wyoming	592,870	26,000	618,870
Guam	50,000	-	50,000
Puerto Rico	150,000	-	150,000
Virgin Islands	50,000	-	50,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$30,000,000</b>	<b>\$2,600,000</b>	<b>\$32,600,000</b>

Apportionment for Federal Aid in Fish Restoration  
Fiscal Year 1976

Alabama	\$ 189,233
Alaska	540,000
Arizona	223,161
Arkansas	221,057
California	540,000
Colorado	266,636
Connecticut	108,000
Delaware	108,000
Florida	271,017
Georgia	215,893
Hawaii	108,000
Idaho	191,668
Illinois	240,022
Indiana	195,357
Iowa	171,890
Kansas	176,146
Kentucky	169,998
Louisiana	155,045
Maine	108,000
Maryland	108,000
Massachusetts	108,000
Michigan	360,460
Minnesota	396,877
Mississippi	152,968
Missouri	280,479
Montana	239,207
Nebraska	145,041
Nevada	169,773
New Hampshire	108,000
New Jersey	108,000
New Mexico	189,760
New York	257,749
North Carolina	178,000
North Dakota	118,957
Ohio	250,577
Oklahoma	222,894
Oregon	264,921
Pennsylvania	261,818
Rhode Island	108,000
South Carolina	122,768
South Dakota	133,671
Tennessee	239,903
Texas	540,000
Utah	195,163
Vermont	108,000
Virginia	166,724
Washington	196,684
West Virginia	108,000
Wisconsin	377,440
Wyoming	167,043
American Samoa	36,000
Guam	36,000
Puerto Rico	108,000
Virgin Islands	36,000
<u>Total</u>	<u>\$10,800,000</u>