

Creating Opportunities to Connect People with Nature through Fishing and Boating



State Fish and Wildlife Agencies and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program work together to provide fishing and boating opportunities to the public using Dingell-Johnson (DJ) Sport Fish Restoration funds and state fishing license revenues.

Funds are used to create public access opportunities in the form of boat ramps, fishing areas and piers, or for public easements to rivers, streams, and ponds. Complementing these access areas are State Fish and Wildlife Agency hatchery programs that raise and stock fish to provide fishing opportunities using DJ Sport Fish Restoration funds.

Boating and Fishing Access

State Fish and Wildlife Agencies use DJ Sport Fish Restoration funds to create opportunities for public access to waters for fishing and boating in rural, suburban, and urban areas. This is done by acquiring land for access, renovating and constructing boat ramps or car top boating opportunities, and operating and maintaining existing boating access sites.

Across the country, these funds are used to ensure that over 6,400 boating and fishing access areas are well maintained and open to the public.

Fisheries Management and Fish Hatcheries Hatcheries and fish research, surveys and monitoring funded by DJ Sport Fish Restoration are an integral component of fisheries management by State Fish and Wildlife Agencies. Research, surveys, and monitoring, are used to guide sport fish management efforts and determine where sport fish are stocked for fishing opportunities and fishery restoration.

In the United States, these funds are used by State Fish and Wildlife Agencies to research, survey, and monitor over 100 species of sport fish and also operate and maintain over 315 hatcheries, which annually produce 1.3 billion fish of over 70 different species. These funds also support fish stocking, hatchery water quality monitoring and improvements, and hatchery land acquisition, construction, and upgrades. Hatcheries also provide educational opportunities to the thousands of members of the public who visit state fish hatcheries each year.

Working Together

State Fish and Wildlife Agencies and the Service's Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program partner to connect people with nature by creating public access to waters that have healthy fish populations. This strong partnership supports access and outdoor opportunities for anglers and boaters, and conservation throughout the U.S.

Between 2014-2018, over 1,100 new boating ramps were constructed using DJ Sport Fish Restoration funds.



Joe Mamasala

Public boat access on waters with healthy fish populations provide great opportunities to recruit new anglers.



VT Fish and Wildlife Department

DJ Sport Fish Restoration funds and state fishing license revenues are used to operate and maintain over 315 hatcheries, which annually produce 1.3 billion fish of 70 different species.



State fish and wildlife agencies annually stock lakes, rivers, and ponds to provide fishing opportunities throughout their state.