

Department of the Interior
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Pacific Region
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Media Advisory



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Fish and Wildlife Service Celebrates National Fishing and Boating Week

On June 7, 2010, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will celebrate the start of the nationwide National Fishing and Boating Week with several hundred schoolchildren who will drop their lines in the Constitution Gardens Pond for a day of fishing on the National Mall. The Service leads the event in coordination with the Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation, National Park Service and numerous other local, state and federal agencies, nonprofit organizations and volunteers.

The youth participating in this event are mostly from urban schools, where opportunities to participate in these types of activities are limited. This angling event highlights the Service's priority to help young people get outdoors and enjoy America's rich and diverse natural resources.

Helping children learn the joys of fishing and being at home in the great outdoors is one of the centerpieces of President Obama's "America's Great Outdoors" initiative to support community-level efforts to conserve outdoor spaces and reconnect Americans, especially children, to the outdoors.

With the help of numerous volunteers, youngsters from several Washington metropolitan area schools will fish for largemouth bass, bluegill and crappie, as well as learn about fishing techniques, angler ethics, safety and aquatic conservation. This event serves to foster natural resource stewardship in America's youth and expose them to careers in natural resources. It also celebrates Great Outdoors Month highlighting the benefits of fresh air, exercise and volunteerism.

WHO: Dan Ashe, Deputy Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Michael Connor, Commissioner, Bureau of Reclamation
Hank Kashdan, Associate Chief, U.S. Forest Service
Frank Peterson, President, Recreational Boating & Fishing Foundation
Derrick Crandall, President and CEO, American Recreation Coalition
Jim Owens, Founder and Executive Director, C.A.S.T. for Kids Foundation

WHAT: National Fishing and Boating Week Youth Event

WHEN: June 7, 2010 (Monday) Official "VIP Castoff" press conference 10:00 a.m. (EST)

WHERE: Constitution Gardens Pond, National Mall, Washington DC.

MEDIA: All credentialed news organizations are invited to attend.