



## **Boating, Angling and Aquatic Resource Conservation: Sport Fishing and Boating Partnership Council reflects Interconnected Stakeholder Base**

### **BACKGROUND:**

- The Sport Fishing and Boating Partnership Council (Council) was established through the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) by the Secretary of the Interior in January 1993.
- It advises the Secretary, through the Director of the Fish and Wildlife Service, on nationally significant recreational fishing and boating, and aquatic resource conservation issues.
- Council members include senior representatives from the boating and fishing industry, associated user groups, conservation organizations, as well as Tribal organizations and State natural resource management agencies. As demonstrated by the accompanying facts and figures, these interests represent significant both a significant economic and conservation driver in the United States.
- The interests represented on the Council either contribute to or manage the investment of hundreds of millions of dollars annually for the conservation and enjoyment of our Nation's aquatic resources through the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund.

### **DISCUSSION:**

- Over its 15 year history, the Council fulfilled its role of providing advice and recommendations to the Department of Interior (DOI) and Fish and Wildlife Service (Service).
- The Council is one of 108 FACA committees at the DOI, and one of 916 federal government-wide. It is the only FACA committee addressing the issues of recreational angling and boating, and their contribution to aquatic resource conservation.
- Key contribution: the Council provides an invaluable exchange of expertise and perspective that provides strategic direction and builds consensus among recreational fishing, boating and conservation interests on issues within the Secretary's purview.
- Past accomplishments: a policy for conserving Federally threatened, endangered, and candidate aquatic species while providing and enhancing recreational fisheries; advised the Service on most appropriate role to enhance recreational fisheries; led effort that resulted in a recreational fisheries executive order (Executive Order 12962) signed in 1995; drafted a Recreational Fishery Resources Conservation Plan; convened stakeholders to draft the National Outreach and Communications Plan for the recreational angling, boating and conservation community (led to the creation of the Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation).

- Current initiatives/priorities: implementation of the National Fish Habitat Action Plan; guidance to the Service's Fisheries Program strategic plan; guidance to the Service to improve delivery of the Boating Infrastructure Grant Program, Clean Vessel Act Grant Program and the Boating Access Program; guidance to the National Outreach and Communications Program to increase angling and boating participation; engage stakeholders to develop solutions to the crisis in boating and angling access.
- Attached: current Council member roster, charter, by-laws.
- Three topical papers follow: Sport Fish Restoration Program and Trust Fund reauthorization, boating and fishing access issues and fishery issues. The Council provides these for your consideration and stands ready to discuss these issues.

### **Boating and Angling Facts and Figures**

#### **Boater Demographics and Economic Impacts of Boating**

- Recreational boating has an overall economic impact annually of over \$100 billion.
- Last year, more than one-quarter of all Americans went boating.
- 75% of boat owners earn an annual household income of less than \$100,000.
- Of the approximately 17,000,000 recreational boats in the country, the average size boat is 16 feet, and 95% of boats in use are less than 26 feet in length (i.e., trailerable boats).
- According to the National Marine Manufacturers Association, in 2007 expenditures on recreational marine products and services totaled \$37.5 billion.
- 80% of all recreational marine products purchased in the United States are made in the United States.
- In 2007, recreational boating is directly and indirectly associated with 337,758 jobs and \$10.4 billion in labor income.

*- Information provided by the National Marine Manufacturers Association & Boat Owners of the United States*

#### **Angler Demographics and Economic Impacts of Angling**

- Angling and angling related purchases contribute \$125 billion in overall economic output to the Nation's economy.
- According to the Service, in 2005 nearly 40 million Americans went fishing.
- According to the American Sportfishing Association, in 2006 purchases of angling related equipment generated \$45.3 billion in retail sales and \$16.4 billion in state and federal taxes.
- Expenditures on angling related equipment helps support one million jobs.
- In 2006, purchases of angling related products generated \$9 billion in Federal tax revenues.

*-Information provided by the American Sportfishing Association*

#### **Boating and Angling Contribution to Aquatic Resource Conservation**

- In fiscal year 2008, an estimated \$663 million in revenues from excise taxes, import duties and gas taxes flowed into the Sport Fish Restoration Grant Program (SFR). These

revenues are paid by the boating and angling industries, and boaters and anglers, themselves.

- In fiscal year 2008, over \$389 million was apportioned to States and territories through the SFR Grant Program to help fund aquatic resource conservation efforts and to help provide public opportunities to use publicly-managed aquatic resources.
- In 2008, boaters and anglers purchased over \$586 million in fishing licenses, stamps and permits. These revenues are used by the States to match federal apportionments through the SFR Program.
- The total combined contribution to resource conservation and provision of recreational opportunities through the SFR Program is nearly \$1 billion in 2008.
- Boaters and anglers also contributed millions of hours of volunteer time to protect, conserve and restore aquatic resource, and recreational boating and angling infrastructure.