



**SPORT FISHING & BOATING
PARTNERSHIP COUNCIL**

Mr. Rowan Gould
Acting Director
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
1849 C Street, NW
Mailstop 3256
Washington, D.C. 20240

JUL 14 2010

Dear Director Gould,

As Chairman of the Sport Fishing and Boating Partnership Council, it is my pleasure to submit the enclosed report, *"Twenty-Five Years of Providing Access for Boaters: An Assessment of the Boating Access Provisions of the Sport Fish Restoration Program, 1984-2009."* The Council respectfully requests a full review and response by the Fish and Wildlife Service prior to the September 8, 2010, Council meeting. This will allow for dialogue between the Service and Council regarding a timeline and strategy for implementation of the report recommendations.

The assessment, conducted at your request, is the result of a more than year-long effort by a 13-member work team convened by the Council specifically to undertake the task. In brief, the Council found that the SFR boating access program is successful in delivering upon its promise of new and enhanced access to America's waters for recreational boaters. However, having found that the program, overall, is successful in providing access, the Council is offering 12 findings and 8 recommendations for improving program performance and accountability. The Council believes you will find that these recommendations, if implemented, will place the SFR boating access program on a solid footing into the future. There are several recommendations that overlap with those in previous assessments of the Boating Infrastructure Grant and Clean Vessel Act programs, highlighting the continuing need for attention to these cross-cutting issues. Most notably, the lack of a comprehensive accomplishments reporting system that is useful to policy makers and the public, and completion of the framework for completing a boat access needs assessment as required by law for the past 12 years. I and other Council members look forward to engaging FWS personnel in working to implement as many of the recommendations as is possible.

In closing, I request a meeting to brief you and other FWS leadership on the assessment findings and recommendations. Council Coordinator Doug Hobbs can assist with arranging a convenient time and can be reached on 703-358-2336, or

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at doug_hobbs@fws.gov. We look forward to continuing our productive working relationship with the Service and our many partners to get Americans — young and old — out on the water to fish, to boat, and to help conserve our Nation's aquatic resources.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. Dammrich', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Thomas J. Dammrich
Chair

Enclosure

Cc: SFBPC members
Hannibal Bolton
Joyce Johnson
Elizabeth Stevens
Bruce Decker
Brian Bohnsack