



# Wildlife & Sport Fish Restoration Program Update



Sport Fishing and Boating Partnership Council Meeting





# 2018 WSFR Program Priorities



- Strengthen the WSFR Partnership by:
  - Developing a shared vision for administration of the program
  - Supporting R3 (recruit, retain, and reactivate boaters, anglers, and hunters)
- Improve effectiveness and customer service of WSFR Program
- Enhance WSFR Partnership's funding, support and relevance by completing a strategic communications plan, assessing cost effectiveness, and implementing the plan if appropriate



# Strengthening the WSFR Partnership

## Shared Vision for WSFR Program



- Program Management Analysis launched in 2016
- Distributed Summary Report to State Directors in March 2018
- Overview and next steps information presented at North American Wildlife & Natural Resources Conference
- WSFR will work with stakeholders to develop shared vision



# Strengthening the WSFR Partnership

## Improving Public Access to Hunting, Fishing and Outdoor Recreation



- Priority of Secretary and Director is to work with States to support recruitment, retention and reactivation (R3) of boaters, anglers, and hunters
- Becoming harder for most Americans to boat, hunt, and fish
- Hunting and angling traditions AND conservation funding are at risk
- Efforts include:
  - R3 Training in coordination with partners at NCTC
  - Policy development, including R3 eligibility for grants
  - Coordinating with Fishing and Hunting Chiefs



# Improve Effectiveness and Customer Service of WSFR Program



- Navigating through Office of the Secretary of the Interior Review of Grants
- Training state and federal staff
- Regional Operations



# Secretary of Interior (OS) Review of Financial Assistance (FA)



- OS will continue reviews of FA programs in 2018
- Five FWS non-discretionary programs exempted:
  - Sport Fish Restoration
  - Wildlife Restoration and Basic Hunter Education
  - Enhanced Hunter Education and Safety
  - North American Wetlands Conservation Fund
  - State Wildlife Grants (formula)
- WSFR employee dedicated full-time to facilitate review



# Notices of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)



- NOFOs required by regulation for all grant programs
- Purpose of the NOFO – Inform applicants of the opportunity and requirements to apply for grants
- NOFOs do not require OS review for 5 exempt programs
- For competitive programs, NOFOs were cleared by DOI just last week, and we will be posting these soon to receive applications under our six competitive grant programs:
  - ✓ BIG, CVA, NCW, SWG-C, TWG, MSCG



# Strong Customer Service through Training



- 126 State staff trained at 5 Project Leader Courses (PLC) and 367 completed on-line PLC
- 56 staff trained in Basic Grants Management
- 46 staff trained in Advanced Grants Management
- Provided training at 3 Federal Aid Coordinator's Workshops for 190 participants
- Provided training at States Organization for Boating Access Conference for 52 participants



# Strong Customer Service from FWS Regions in 2017



- During the PMA, State Directors and FACs were interviewed in 8 FWS Regions, where strong WSFR customer service was demonstrated in ALL regions
- Regions reviewed/approved 1,381 grants (\$804 M) and 2,042 amendments (\$460 M)
- Regions monitored 6,056 grants valued over \$4.4 B
- Regions closed 1,682 awards



# WSFR Success! SFR in New Hampshire





# WSFR Success!

## Boating Access in Juneau, Alaska



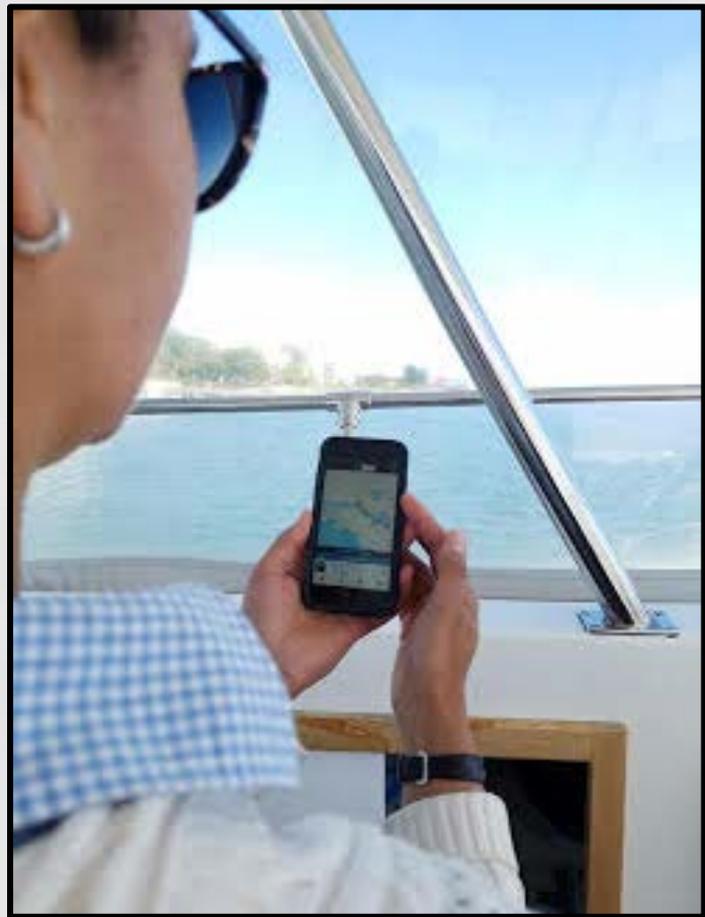
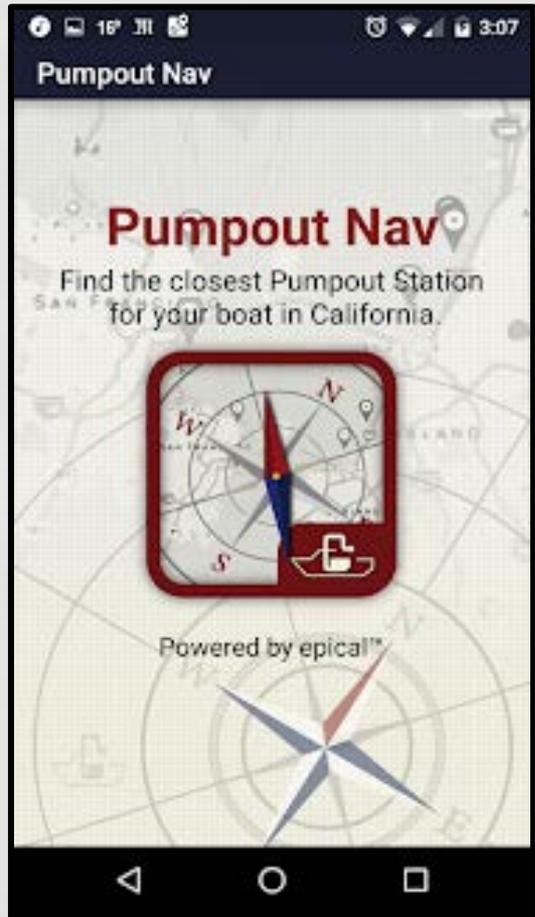


# WSFR Success! BIG in the District of Columbia





# WSFR Success! CVA in California





# WSFR Strategic Communications Plan



Purpose is to ensure:

- Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Programs are **Relevant** to the public
- Key Audiences **Support** Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Programs
- **Funding** for Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Programs is stable and sufficient



# TRACS

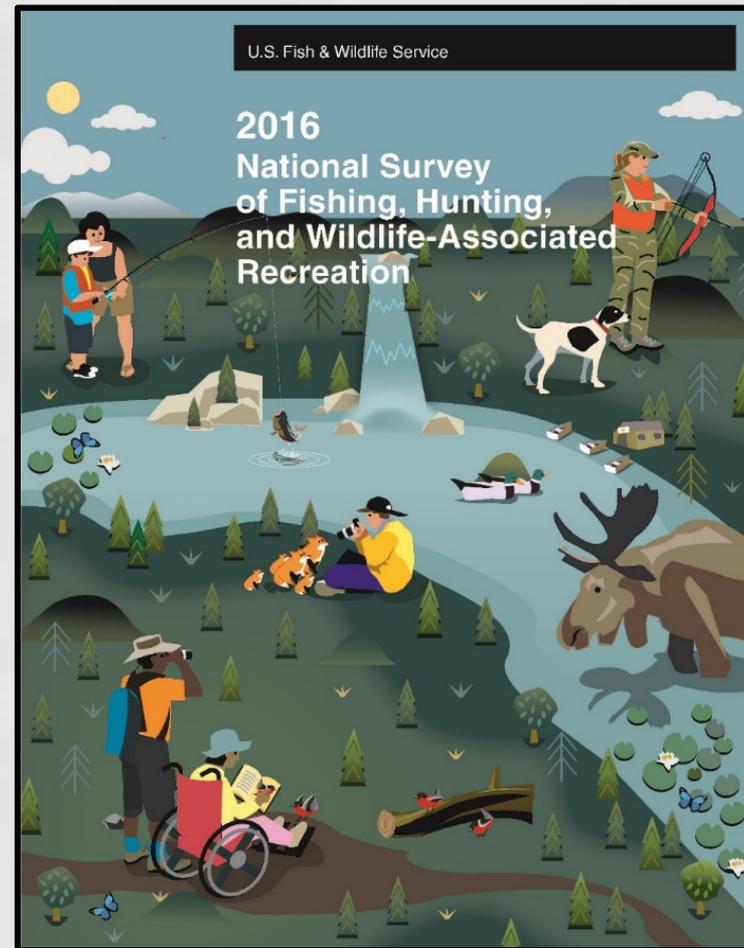


## Tracking and Reporting Actions for the Conservation of Species

- Data Fields/Metrics Adopted by JTF - Nov 2017
- 12-18 month TRACS Enhancement began in December 2017
- User Training and “Go Live” planned for summer/fall 2019 (includes public viewer)
- TRACS Enhancement anticipated to be valuable tool to document accomplishments and tell WSFR Story



# National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation, 2016





# 2016 National Survey and 50-State Survey



## National Survey

*Same methodology maintained trends with 1991 to 2011 Surveys*

- U.S. Census Bureau
  - Computer-assisted phone and in-person interviews
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
  - Sponsor/Coordinator
- 4 States (OK, ME, MN, and VA) for comparison with mail survey

## 50-State Survey

*Mail data collection method tested whether cost-effective for future Surveys*

- Rockville Institute
  - Self-administered paper questionnaire
- AFWA Technical Workgroup
  - Overseer
  - Methods compared by Independent Evaluation Team



# Status of the Two 2016 Surveys



## **The National Survey conducted by U.S. Census Bureau**

*Preliminary 2016 National Survey Report* released in August 2017:

- 103.7 million Americans fished, hunted or wildlife watched
- Spent over \$156.9 billion, approaching 1% of the Nation's Gross Domestic Product
- First time estimates of recreational target shooters (32 M), and recreational archers (12.4 M) in U.S.

*Final National Survey Report* scheduled for release in April 2018

## **50-State Survey conducted by Rockville Institute**

*State reports produced on a flow basis starting in April 2018*



# How does having 2 survey methods affect the 2016 Survey user?

- Analysis of National trends still possible with Census Bureau data
- Content of National Survey remains the same
- Addition of shooting sports and archery participation questions
- State Reports prepared by Rockville Institute
- Layout of state reports will be similar to previous state reports
- Goal is to determine cost-effectiveness of mail data collection method for future surveys



# 2016 Facts



35.8M US residents 16 years old + (14%) of US Population Fished

- 84%, 30.1M fished freshwater
- 23%, 8.3M fished saltwater
- 42% fished from a boat

Anglers spent \$46.1 billion on Fishing

- \$21.1B on equipment
- \$21.7B on trips
- \$3.3 B on other expenditures

73% male; 27% female



# Trends



2011-2016

9% Increase in Freshwater Fishing

- 33,112,000 to 35,754,000 \*

6% Decrease in Saltwater Fishing

- 8,889,000 to 8,320,000 \*

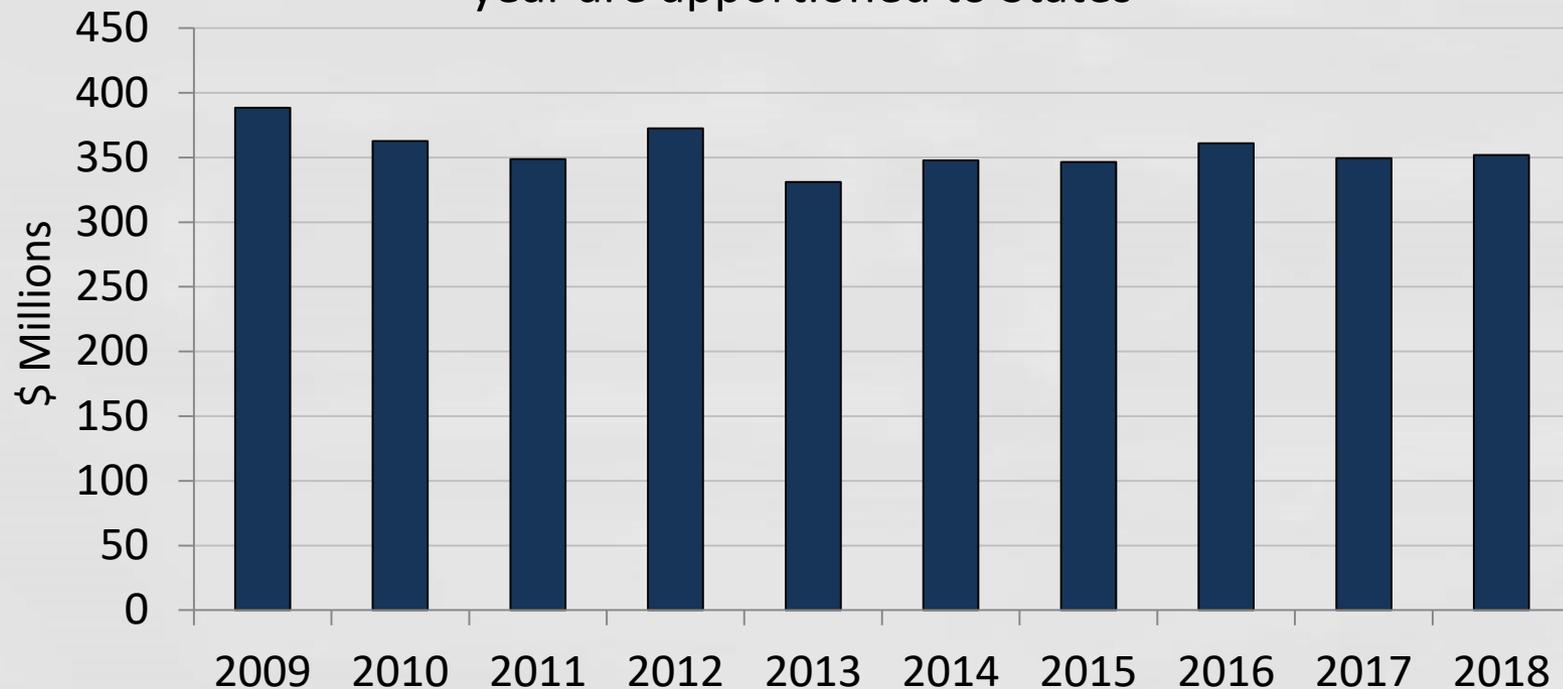
*\* Not statistically different at 95% confidence level*



# Sport Fish Restoration Program State Apportionments 2009-2018



58% of SFR Trust Fund receipts from the previous year are apportioned to States

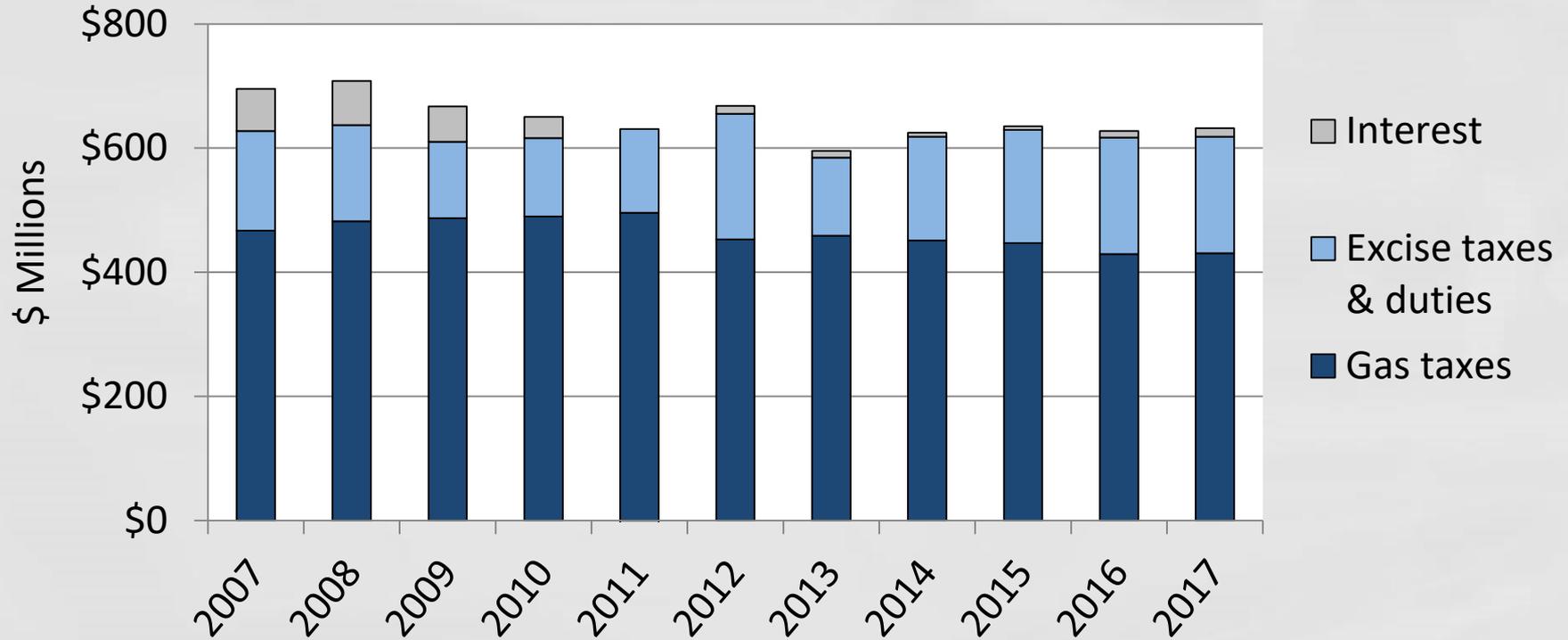




# Sport Fish Restoration & Boating Trust Fund Receipts



Gas taxes (motorboats & small engines) made up 72% of trust fund receipts over last 10 years

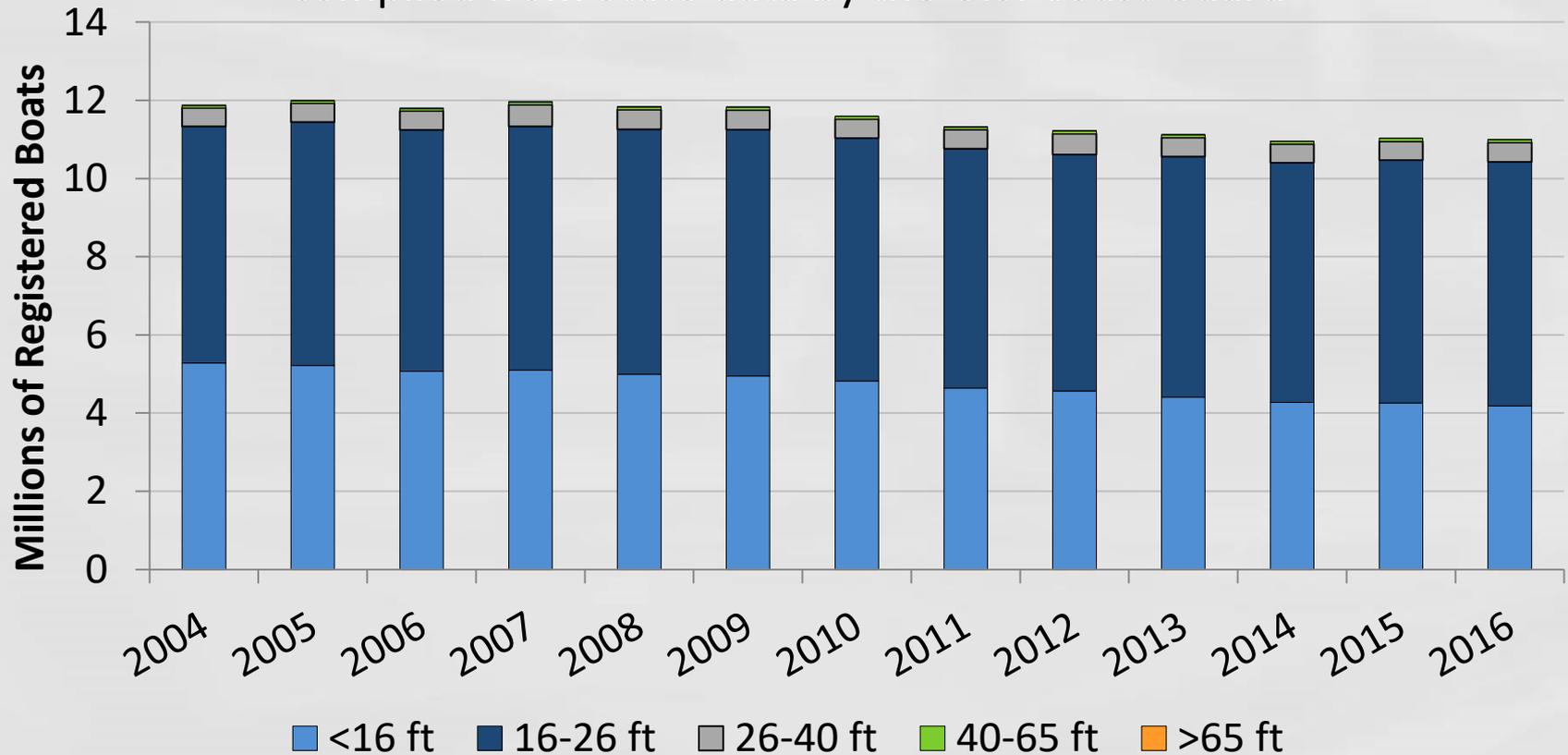




# Motor Boat Registrations in U.S.



Motorboat gas tax receipts in the Sport Fish and Boating Trust Fund are based on # of registered recreational motorboats, compiled from State data by the U.S. Coast Guard





# Sport Fish Restoration & Boating Trust Fund Comparing Receipts (\$M)

| Year                     | '12          | '13          | '14          | '15          | '16          | '17          | '18            |
|--------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|----------------|
| Through<br>Feb.<br>Total | 206.6        | 195.9        | 189.8        | 199.4        | 200.5        | 196.2        | 211.6          |
| Domestic<br>Fish         | 52.6         | 37.5         | 32.6         | 40.0         | 43.9         | 37.3         | 42.5           |
| <b>TOTAL YEAR</b>        | <b>668.2</b> | <b>595.6</b> | <b>624.9</b> | <b>635.5</b> | <b>627.7</b> | <b>632.0</b> | <b>Est 625</b> |



# Questions?



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