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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

For Immediate Release

STATES RECEIVE MORE THAN \$4 MILLION IN FEDERAL AID FUNDS FOR FISH RESTORATION

An upsurge in the purchase of sport fishing equipment during fiscal year 1953, attributed in part to the growing popularity of spinning tackle, has made the sum of \$4,299,916 in Federal Aid funds available for apportionment to the 48 States for sport fishery restoration projects during fiscal year 1954, Secretary of the Interior Douglas McKay announced today.

This amount is an increase of \$1,791,389 over last year's apportionment of \$2,508,527.

These Federal funds become available to the States under the terms of the Federal Aid in Fish Restoration Act of August 9, 1950, probably better known as the "Dingell-Johnson Act." This program, now in its third year of operation, is enabling the States to create new public fishing lakes, restore many unproductive waters, and put research findings to better use.

The revenue for the Federal share of the program comes from the 10 percent excise tax on fishing rods, creels, reels, and artificial lures, baits, and flies, paid by the manufacturers of those products. Collections from this source during the year ended June 30, 1953, totaled \$4,556,615. From this total is taken the annual apportionments of \$75,000 to Alaska, \$25,000 to Hawaii, and \$10,000 each to the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico, and the cost of administering the act by the Fish and Wildlife Service.

To provide a fair distribution of Federal funds, each State's share is based on the relation of the number of its fishing license holders to the total in all States, and the ratio of each State's area (including coastal and Great Lakes waters) to the area of the entire country.

The act also states "that no State can receive less than one percent nor more than five percent of the total apportioned to all States." This provision allows the small States enough working capital to finance comparatively big projects, while the large States will be able to receive only the maximum amount. On this basis California, Michigan, and Minnesota are given the maximum apportionment of \$214,996 each, while Connecticut, Delaware, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Rhode Island, and Vermont will receive the minimum of \$42,999.

To obtain the benefits of the Federal grants, the States submit project proposals to the Fish and Wildlife Service. Acting for the Secretary of the Interior, the Service reviews these proposals to learn whether they are substantial in character and design, within the meaning of the act. When a project is approved, the State game and fish departments proceed to carry out the plans, spending their

own funds. The States then submit reimbursement claims for 75 percent of the costs of the project, either periodically or at the completion of the work. The remaining 25 percent of project expenditures is financed out of regular State funds. All equipment, lands, and structures become the property of the States. All project workers are hired by the States and are State employees.

Apportionments to the 48 States for fiscal year 1954 are as follows:

Alabama	\$52,945	Maine	\$45,421	Ohio	\$153,588
Arizona	68,625	Maryland	42,999	Oklahoma	99,180
Arkansas	78,425	Massachusetts	42,999	Oregon	92,832
California	214,996	Michigan	214,996	Pennsylvania	122,569
Colorado	103,031	Minnesota	214,996	Rhode Island	42,999
Connecticut	42,999	Mississippi	48,193	South Carolina	58,375
Delaware	42,999	Missouri	132,636	South Dakota	57,938
Florida	74,495	Montana	103,129	Tennessee	129,713
Georgia	82,803	Nebraska	68,502	Texas	191,741
Idaho	74,353	Nevada	60,690	Utah	58,996
Illinois	141,430	New Hampshire	42,999	Vermont	42,999
Indiana	100,096	New Jersey	42,999	Virginia	67,052
Iowa	86,684	New Mexico	75,550	Washington	101,620
Kansas	80,949	New York	146,347	West Virginia	44,865
Kentucky	79,195	North Carolina	76,016	Wisconsin	192,819
Louisiana	42,999	North Dakota	45,125	Wyoming	72,007

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