

DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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FISH AND WILDLIFE AID TO STATES TOPS \$46 MILLION

Over \$46 million of Federal Aid funds for sport fish and wildlife restoration and hunter safety programs has been apportioned by Secretary of the Interior Thomas S. Kleppe to the States and the governments of Puerto Rico, Guam, the Virgin Islands, and American Samoa for use after July 1.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Director Lynn A. Greenwalt said the \$46 million is the first of two installments that will be distributed to the States this year from excise taxes collected in fiscal year 1976. It will be used by the States to finance their fish and wildlife programs during the first half of fiscal year 1977. The second installment will be distributed in December after the tally of FY 76 tax receipts is completed by the Treasury Department. Last fiscal year a total of \$78.8 million in Federal Aid funds was distributed in two installments to State governments.

Funds for fish restoration programs come from a 10 percent excise tax on fishing rods, reels, creels, and artificial baits, lures, and flies. Funds for wildlife restoration and hunter safety programs come from an 11 percent excise tax on sporting arms and ammunition and a 10 percent excise tax on pistols and revolvers.

"This self-taxing concept has stood the test of 38 years," Greenwalt said. "Since 1938 almost \$800 million has been collected in excise taxes on these items. Fifty percent of these funds has gone into improving

(more)

habitat for game such as building dikes to impound duck marshes, constructing watering sites on desert lands for quail and deer, managing forest lands, and fencing elk and deer from farmlands. Twenty-five percent has supported research into such things as census-guided selection of hunting seasons and bag limits and life history studies on a variety of animals such as wolves, grizzly bears, and the Florida panther. Another 20 percent has been spent buying or leasing land such as prairie duck sloughs, winter big game ranges, bottom lands, desert lands--in all, more than 54 million acres or over 84,000 square miles, an area larger than the six New England States, Maryland, and Hawaii combined. Only 5 percent of the funds has gone to administrative overhead."

Of the distribution announced today, \$33.3 million was distributed according to a formula based on hunting license holders and the area of each State for wildlife projects. Another \$4.8 million was distributed, on the basis of State population, for hunter safety programs. Under the Federal Aid to Fish Restoration Program, \$8.5 million was distributed on a formula based on the number of sport fishing license holders and the area of each State.

The attached tables show funds distributed by State. Texas, Alaska, California, Pennsylvania, and Michigan are the largest recipients with at least \$1.2 million going to each. Maximum and minimum limits are placed on the distribution of these funds so that States smaller in area and population like Delaware, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Hawaii receive reasonable apportionments.

Apportionment for Federal Aid in Fish Restoration
Fiscal Year 1977

Alabama	\$ 147,816
Alaska	425,000
Arizona	180,085
Arkansas	174,102
California	425,000
Colorado	199,234
Connecticut	85,000
Delaware	85,000
Florida	217,267
Georgia	168,726
Hawaii	85,000
Idaho	143,108
Illinois	208,133
Indiana	157,305
Iowa	140,228
Kansas	138,420
Kentucky	135,728
Louisiana	118,936
Maine	85,000
Maryland	85,000
Massachusetts	85,000
Michigan	293,168
Minnesota	317,799
Mississippi	117,869
Missouri	213,935
Montana	186,602
Nebraska	116,943
Nevada	132,826
New Hampshire	85,000
New Jersey	85,000
New Mexico	150,322
New York	208,551
North Carolina	137,466
North Dakota	90,880
Ohio	201,196
Oklahoma	169,750
Oregon	210,091
Pennsylvania	194,612
Rhode Island	85,000
South Carolina	96,644
South Dakota	102,417
Tennessee	179,986
Texas	425,000
Utah	151,208
Vermont	85,000
Virginia	113,738
Washington	160,500
West Virginia	85,000
Wisconsin	308,524
Wyoming	135,886
Guam	28,333
Puerto Rico	85,000
Virgin Islands	28,333
American Samoa	28,333

Total \$ 8,500,000

Apportionment for Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration
Fiscal Year 1977

	Wildlife Restoration	Hunter Safety	Total
Alabama	\$ 585,808	\$ 118,958	\$ 704,766
Alaska	1,665,000	48,600	1,713,600
Arizona	764,431	61,220	825,651
Arkansas	608,398	66,429	674,827
California	1,451,906	145,800	1,597,706
Colorado	829,817	76,236	906,053
Connecticut	166,500	104,730	271,230
Delaware	166,500	48,600	215,100
Florida	570,425	145,800	716,225
Georgia	650,452	145,800	796,252
Hawaii	166,500	48,600	215,100
Idaho	638,559	48,600	687,159
Illinois	729,973	145,800	875,773
Indiana	632,741	145,800	778,541
Iowa	639,276	97,574	736,850
Kansas	651,193	77,680	728,873
Kentucky	501,635	111,192	612,827
Louisiana	569,817	125,832	695,649
Maine	378,266	48,600	426,866
Maryland	237,535	135,476	373,011
Massachusetts	166,500	145,800	312,300
Michigan	1,200,120	145,800	1,345,920
Minnesota	865,866	131,423	997,289
Mississippi	561,866	76,570	638,436
Missouri	805,619	145,800	951,419
Montana	980,179	48,600	1,028,779
Nebraska	597,724	51,248	648,972
Nevada	643,464	48,600	692,064
New Hampshire	166,500	48,600	215,100
New Jersey	227,599	145,800	373,399
New Mexico	777,893	48,600	826,493
New York	986,666	145,800	1,132,466
North Carolina	671,546	145,800	817,346
North Dakota	471,334	48,600	519,934
Ohio	775,251	145,800	921,051
Oklahoma	619,938	88,394	708,332
Oregon	842,356	72,234	914,590
Pennsylvania	1,403,866	145,800	1,549,666
Rhode Island	166,500	48,600	215,100
South Carolina	362,135	89,474	451,609
South Dakota	570,510	48,600	619,110
Tennessee	708,403	135,537	843,940
Texas	1,665,000	145,800	1,810,800
Utah	664,645	48,600	713,245
Vermont	183,155	48,600	231,755
Virginia	616,630	145,800	762,430
Washington	682,404	117,749	800,153
West Virginia	397,070	60,244	457,314
Wisconsin	975,418	145,800	1,121,218
Wyoming	661,611	48,600	710,211
Guam	55,500	-	55,500
Puerto Rico	166,500	-	166,500
Virgin Islands	55,500	-	55,500
Total	\$33,300,000	\$4,860,000	\$38,160,000