



NEWS

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STATE FISH AND WILDLIFE AGENCIES TO SHARE
\$301.8 MILLION IN EXCISE TAX RECEIPTS

Continuing a conservation tradition dating back more than six decades, state fish and wildlife agencies will share \$301.8 million in excise taxes paid by America's hunters, target shooters, boaters, and anglers, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Director Jamie Rappaport Clark announced today.

The states will use funds from the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration and Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration program for fish and wildlife conservation through land acquisition, habitat improvement, research, education, and other programs. The funds also will help pay for hunting education programs, boating access, and other fish- and wildlife-related recreation projects.

"The continuing contributions of hunters, anglers, and other sportsmen and -women make effective wildlife conservation possible in America," Clark said. "They literally have paid billions of dollars in excise taxes over the years that have been spent by states on conservation projects. With these funds, states have been able to conserve species and habitat alike for the enjoyment of all Americans."

In the 1930s, hunters themselves took the rare step of lobbying Congress to use an excise tax on firearms and ammunition for wildlife conservation. Anglers followed suit in 1950. Boaters joined in 1985. During the past 60 years, the two programs have raised nearly \$6 billion to support conservation, hunter education, boating access, and other efforts by states.

The money is distributed to the states for projects proposed by the states and approved by the Service. Federal Aid funds pay up to 75 percent of the cost of each project while the states contribute at least 25 percent of the cost.

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This funding is a preliminary apportionment, which is provided to the states based on receipts for the first 9 months of the year. Additional funds will become available after receipts for the July-September quarter are known.

The preliminary apportionment for wildlife restoration and hunter education programs for fiscal year 1998 totals \$104.7 million. The money is derived from an 11-percent excise tax on sporting arms and ammunition, a 10-percent tax on pistols and revolvers, and an 11-percent tax on certain archery equipment. One-half of the tax on handguns and archery equipment is made available for state hunter education and shooting range programs.

The preliminary apportionment for sport fish restoration for FY 1998 totals \$197.1 million. This funding results from a 10-percent excise tax on fishing equipment and a 3-percent tax on electric trolling motors and sonar fish finders. The Wallop-Breaux legislation of 1984 increased the tax base for sport fish restoration to include a portion of the Federal fuels tax and importation duties on fishing tackle and pleasure boats.

Distribution of sport fish restoration funds to the states is based on the land and water area and the number of fishing license holders in each state. Wildlife restoration funds are made available based on land area and the number of hunting license holders in each state. Distribution of hunter education funds is based on the relative population of each state.

The attached tables show the allocation of the preliminary apportionment for fiscal year 1998. Final apportionments will be announced in the next 3 months.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is the principal Federal agency responsible for conserving, protecting, and enhancing fish and wildlife and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. The Service manages 509 national wildlife refuges encompassing 92 million acres, as well as 72 national fish hatcheries. It enforces Federal wildlife laws, manages migratory bird populations, stocks recreational fisheries, conserves and restores wetlands and other wildlife habitat, protects and restores endangered species, and helps foreign governments with conservation efforts.

**PRELIMINARY APPORTIONMENT OF FEDERAL AID IN WILDLIFE
RESTORATION FUNDS FOR FISCAL YEAR 1998**

STATE	WILDLIFE RESTORATION	HUNTER EDUCATION	TOTAL
ALABAMA	1,457,401	382,919	1,840,320
ALASKA	4,418,101	162,984	4,581,085
ARIZONA	2,098,661	347,358	2,446,019
ARKANSAS	1,627,313	162,984	1,790,297
CALIFORNIA	3,148,046	488,953	3,636,999
COLORADO	2,426,427	312,204	2,738,631
CONNECTICUT	441,810	311,514	753,324
DELAWARE	441,810	162,984	604,794
FLORIDA	1,267,422	488,953	1,756,375
GEORGIA	1,752,269	488,953	2,241,222
HAWAII	441,810	162,984	604,794
IDAHO	1,975,584	162,984	2,138,568
ILLINOIS	1,688,766	488,953	2,177,719
INDIANA	1,325,210	488,953	1,814,163
IOWA	1,523,541	263,148	1,786,689
KANSAS	1,629,447	162,984	1,792,431
KENTUCKY	1,336,775	349,249	1,686,024
LOUISIANA	1,351,210	399,919	1,751,129
MAINE	992,626	162,984	1,155,610
MARYLAND	533,940	453,131	987,071
MASSACHUSETTS	441,810	488,953	930,763
MICHIGAN	3,458,632	488,953	3,947,585
MINNESOTA	2,701,612	414,621	3,116,233
MISSISSIPPI	1,326,956	243,859	1,570,815
MISSOURI	2,228,710	484,936	2,713,646
MONTANA	2,854,882	162,984	3,017,866
NEBRASKA	1,610,961	162,984	1,773,945
NEVADA	1,703,224	162,984	1,866,208
NEW HAMPSHIRE	441,810	162,984	604,794
NEW JERSEY	441,810	488,953	930,763
NEW MEXICO	1,981,831	162,984	2,144,815
NEW YORK	2,660,836	488,953	3,149,789
NORTH CAROLINA	1,700,414	488,953	2,189,367
NORTH DAKOTA	1,284,337	162,984	1,447,321
OHIO	2,061,632	488,953	2,550,585
OKLAHOMA	1,721,033	298,102	2,019,135
OREGON	2,229,861	269,362	2,499,223
PENNSYLVANIA	3,698,354	488,953	4,187,307
RHODE ISLAND	441,810	162,984	604,794
SOUTH CAROLINA	1,028,304	330,429	1,358,733
SOUTH DAKOTA	1,669,796	162,984	1,832,780
TENNESSEE	2,193,979	462,202	2,656,181
TEXAS	4,418,101	488,953	4,907,054
UTAH	1,745,722	162,984	1,908,706
VERMONT	441,810	162,984	604,794
VIRGINIA	1,496,452	488,953	1,985,405
WASHINGTON	1,636,257	461,208	2,097,465
WEST VIRGINIA	1,105,636	162,984	1,268,620
WISCONSIN	3,006,305	463,584	3,469,889
WYOMING	1,720,075	162,984	1,883,059
PUERTO RICO	441,810	0	441,810
GUAM	147,270	27,164	174,434
VIRGIN ISLANDS	147,270	27,164	174,434
AMERICAN SAMOA	147,270	27,164	174,434
N. MARIANA ISLANDS	147,270	27,164	174,434
TOTAL	88,362,011	16,298,439	104,660,450

PRELIMINARY APPORTIONMENT OF FEDERAL AID IN
SPORT FISH RESTORATION FUNDS FOR FISCAL YEAR 1998

ALABAMA	2,862,266
ALASKA	9,857,501
ARIZONA	4,138,030
ARKANSAS	3,237,580
CALIFORNIA	9,857,501
COLORADO	5,027,286
CONNECTICUT	1,971,500
DELAWARE	1,971,500
FLORIDA	4,924,579
GEORGIA	3,648,527
HAWAII	1,971,500
IDAHO	3,677,568
ILLINOIS	4,089,484
INDIANA	2,951,171
IOWA	2,662,560
KANSAS	2,897,917
KENTUCKY	2,943,268
LOUISIANA	3,455,803
MAINE	1,971,500
MARYLAND	2,112,562
MASSACHUSETTS	1,971,500
MICHIGAN	6,931,270
MINNESOTA	7,370,382
MISSISSIPPI	2,504,971
MISSOURI	5,077,094
MONTANA	4,664,626
NEBRASKA	2,642,837
NEVADA	3,053,311
NEW HAMPSHIRE	1,971,500
NEW JERSEY	1,971,500
NEW MEXICO	3,676,517
NEW YORK	4,924,016
NORTH CAROLINA	3,154,126
NORTH DAKOTA	1,971,500
OHIO	4,681,859
OKLAHOMA	3,762,934
OREGON	4,580,836
PENNSYLVANIA	5,209,264
RHODE ISLAND	1,971,500
SOUTH CAROLINA	2,473,438
SOUTH DAKOTA	2,486,002
TENNESSEE	4,153,148
TEXAS	9,857,501
UTAH	3,644,375
VERMONT	1,971,500
VIRGINIA	3,086,239
WASHINGTON	4,389,277
WEST VIRGINIA	1,971,500
WISCONSIN	6,321,993
WYOMING	3,216,557
PUERTO RICO	1,971,500
GUAM	657,167
VIRGIN ISLANDS	657,167
AMERICAN SAMOA	657,167
N. MARIANA ISLANDS	657,167
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA	657,167
TOTAL	197,150,011