



NEWS

from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

March 5, 1998

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ANGLERS, HUNTERS GIVE STATES A \$426 MILLION BOOST FOR CONSERVATION AND RECREATION

America's hunters, anglers, shooters, and boaters once again are supporting our Nation's most successful conservation efforts and outdoor recreation opportunities, thanks to \$426,836,814 they paid in excise taxes during 1997.

Revenues from these taxes go directly to states for their Sport Fish and Wildlife Restoration programs, which involve everything from hunter education to boat ramp construction to fisheries research. The funds are administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Division of Federal Aid.

"Hunters and anglers are the heart of conservation," said Service Director Jamie Rappaport Clark. "Beginning more than 60 years ago, they asked Congress to apply these excise taxes to support conservation of the lands and wildlife they cherish. All outdoor lovers benefit from state projects that are supported by these funds. In addition, these programs demonstrate the success of a user-pay approach to enhancing conservation and outdoor recreation benefits and opportunities."

A total of \$272,028,441 was apportioned to the states under the Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Program, also known as the Dingell-Johnson/Wallop-Breaux acts for the members of Congress who introduced legislation for these laws. This compares to the \$273.2 million distributed last year. The decrease in funding is due to year-end adjustments in receipts by the Internal Revenue Service.

Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration funding comes from a 10-percent excise tax on fishing equipment, a 3-percent tax on electric trolling motors and sonar fish finders, taxes on motorboat fuels, and import duties on fishing tackle and pleasure boats.

States can use these funds to stock fish; acquire and improve sport fish habitat; provide aquatic resource education opportunities; conduct fisheries research, including surveys and inventories of sport fish populations; develop boat ramps, fishing piers, and other recreational facilities; and engage in other related activities.

A total of \$154,808,373 was apportioned to states under the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Program, commonly known as

the Pittman-Robertson Act for the members of Congress who introduced the legislation in 1937. An apportionment of \$27,648,099 of this total is allocated for hunter education. States received wildlife restoration apportionments totaling \$162.5 million last year. The decline in funding is due partially to lower excise tax receipts for arms and ammunition sales and because the Service did not receive all of these funds before fiscal year-end deadlines.

The formula for distributing sport fish restoration funds to 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 each state's population.

The attached tables show the allocation of the final apportionments of the 1997 funds.

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 more than 94 million acres of land and water consisting of 512 national wildlife refuges, 65 national fish hatcheries, 38 wetland management districts with waterfowl production areas, and 50 wildlife coordination areas.

The agency also enforces Federal wildlife laws, manages migratory bird populations, restores nationally significant fisheries, conserves and restores wildlife habitat, such as wetlands, administers the Endangered Species Act, and helps foreign governments with their conservation efforts.

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

ALABAMA	3,958,695
ALASKA	13,601,422
ARIZONA	5,718,356
ARKANSAS	4,478,514
CALIFORNIA	13,601,422
COLORADO	6,951,514
CONNECTICUT	2,720,284
DELAWARE	2,720,284
FLORIDA	6,814,742
GEORGIA	5,047,096
HAWAII	2,720,284
IDAHO	4,617,060
ILLINOIS	5,658,102
INDIANA	4,083,833
IOWA	3,681,530
KANSAS	4,004,336
KENTUCKY	4,072,388
LOUISIANA	4,781,270
MAINE	2,720,284
MARYLAND	2,925,085
MASSACHUSETTS	2,720,284
MICHIGAN	9,590,104
MINNESOTA	10,199,644
MISSISSIPPI	3,464,214
MISSOURI	7,024,808
MONTANA	6,443,747
NEBRASKA	3,651,577
NEVADA	4,216,079
NEW HAMPSHIRE	2,720,284
NEW JERSEY	2,720,284
NEW MEXICO	5,078,055
NEW YORK	6,814,704
NORTH CAROLINA	4,362,967
NORTH DAKOTA	2,720,284
OHIO	6,480,378
OKLAHOMA	5,204,223
OREGON	6,333,898
PENNSYLVANIA	7,210,860
RHODE ISLAND	2,720,284
SOUTH CAROLINA	3,422,663
SOUTH DAKOTA	3,434,336
TENNESSEE	5,748,267
TEXAS	13,601,422
UTAH	5,038,107
VERMONT	2,720,284
VIRGINIA	4,270,210
WASHINGTON	6,071,831
WEST VIRGINIA	2,720,284
WISCONSIN	8,749,943
WYOMING	4,443,821
PUERTO RICO	2,720,284
GUAM	906,762
VIRGIN ISLANDS	906,762
AMERICAN SAMOA	906,762
N. MARIANA ISLANDS	906,762
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA	906,762
TOTAL	272,028,441

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

	WILDLIFE RESTORATION	HUNTER EDUCATION	TOTAL
ALABAMA	2,101,918	649,571	2,751,489
ALASKA	6,358,014	276,481	6,634,495
ARIZONA	3,023,218	589,228	3,612,446
ARKANSAS	2,347,373	276,481	2,623,854
CALIFORNIA	4,536,173	829,443	5,365,616
COLORADO	3,497,801	529,612	4,027,413
CONNECTICUT	635,801	528,442	1,164,243
DELAWARE	635,801	276,481	912,282
FLORIDA	1,827,066	829,443	2,656,509
GEORGIA	2,527,459	829,443	3,356,902
HAWAII	635,801	276,481	912,282
IDAHO	2,615,607	276,481	2,892,088
ILLINOIS	2,435,883	829,443	3,265,326
INDIANA	1,912,167	829,443	2,741,610
IOWA	2,197,061	446,395	2,643,456
KANSAS	2,347,855	276,481	2,624,336
KENTUCKY	1,928,544	592,454	2,520,998
LOUISIANA	1,949,070	678,409	2,627,479
MAINE	1,431,925	276,481	1,708,406
MARYLAND	770,840	768,676	1,539,516
MASSACHUSETTS	635,801	829,443	1,465,244
MICHIGAN	4,993,737	829,443	5,823,180
MINNESOTA	3,897,632	703,347	4,600,979
MISSISSIPPI	1,913,723	413,674	2,327,397
MISSOURI	3,215,092	822,628	4,037,720
MONTANA	4,113,379	276,481	4,389,860
NEBRASKA	2,321,570	276,481	2,598,051
NEVADA	2,452,035	276,481	2,728,516
NEW HAMPSHIRE	635,801	276,481	912,282
NEW JERSEY	635,801	829,443	1,465,244
NEW MEXICO	2,853,690	276,481	3,130,171
NEW YORK	3,841,533	829,443	4,670,976
NORTH CAROLINA	2,453,319	829,443	3,282,762
NORTH DAKOTA	1,850,195	276,481	2,126,676
OHIO	2,976,061	829,443	3,805,504
OKLAHOMA	2,481,372	505,689	2,987,061
OREGON	3,214,382	456,936	3,671,318
PENNSYLVANIA	5,341,253	829,443	6,170,696
RHODE ISLAND	635,801	276,481	912,282
SOUTH CAROLINA	1,483,557	560,528	2,044,085
SOUTH DAKOTA	2,406,689	276,481	2,683,170
TENNESSEE	3,167,318	784,064	3,951,382
TEXAS	6,358,014	829,443	7,187,457
UTAH	2,515,875	276,481	2,792,356
VERMONT	635,801	276,481	912,282
VIRGINIA	2,159,335	829,443	2,988,778
WASHINGTON	2,359,031	782,377	3,141,408
WEST VIRGINIA	1,595,850	276,481	1,872,331
WISCONSIN	4,340,213	786,408	5,126,621
WYOMING	2,477,500	276,481	2,753,981
PUERTO RICO	635,801	0	635,801
GUAM	211,934	46,080	258,014
VIRGIN ISLANDS	211,934	46,080	258,014
AMERICAN SAMOA	211,934	46,080	258,014
N. MARIANA ISLANDS	211,934	46,080	258,014
TOTAL	127,160,274	27,648,099	154,808,373