



NEWS

from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

October 23, 1998

Laury Parramore 202-208-5634

HUNTERS, ANGLERS, AND BOATERS GIVE STATE FISH AND WILDLIFE AGENCIES A \$300 MILLION BUDGET BOOST

Better bass fisheries and boat ramps and enhanced hunter education and habitat restoration programs are just some of the items on state agencies' Sport Fish and Wildlife Restoration Program shopping lists for the 1999 fiscal year. Agencies can conduct this work thanks to a recent \$301.7 million budget boost from the hunters, anglers, and boaters who fund the program through excise taxes they pay on purchases of motorboat fuels and hunting and fishing equipment.

"Everyone who enjoys the outdoors--not just hunters and anglers--benefits from the important work carried out under the Sport Fish and Wildlife Restoration Program," said U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Director Jamie Rappaport Clark. "Hunters', anglers', and boaters' purchases have contributed billions of dollars to conservation and recreation efforts at the state level. The apportionment of these funds ensures that these successful programs receive steady support."

The \$301.7 million is provided to states as a preliminary apportionment that is based on receipts for the first nine months of sales in Fiscal Year 1998, which ended June 30. Additional funds will become available after receipts for the July-to-September 1998 quarter are calculated.

Sport Fish and Wildlife Restoration Program money is distributed for projects proposed by states and approved by the Service. The funds pay up to 75 percent of the cost of each project; states contribute at least 25 percent of the cost.

The preliminary apportionment for wildlife restoration and hunter education programs for Fiscal Year 1999 totals \$116.8 million, up from \$104.7 million in Fiscal Year 1998. The money is derived from an 11-percent excise tax on sporting arms and ammunition, a 10-percent tax on pistols and revolvers, and a 12.4-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 Fiscal Year 1999 totals \$184.9 million, down from \$197.1 million in Fiscal Year 1998. 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 tax base for sport

fish restoration also includes a portion of the Federal fuels tax and import 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 1999. 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 the 93-million-acre National Wildlife Refuge System, consisting of more than 500 national wildlife refuges, thousands of small wetlands, and other special management areas. It also operates 66 national fish hatcheries and 78 ecological services field stations. The agency enforces Federal wildlife laws, administers the Endangered Species Act, manages migratory bird populations, restores nationally significant fisheries, conserves and restores wildlife habitat such as wetlands, and helps foreign governments with their conservation efforts. It also oversees the Sport Fish and Wildlife Restoration Program that distributes hundreds of millions of dollars in excise taxes on fishing and hunting equipment to state wildlife agencies.

PRELIMINARY APPORTIONMENT OF FEDERAL AID IN WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUNDS
FOR FISCAL YEAR 1999

STATE	WILDLIFE RESTORATION	HUNTER EDUCATION	TOTAL
ALABAMA	1,647,855	436,549	2,084,404
ALASKA	4,909,589	185,811	5,095,400
ARIZONA	2,343,830	395,995	2,739,825
ARKANSAS	1,809,562	185,811	1,995,373
CALIFORNIA	3,468,002	557,434	4,025,436
COLORADO	2,723,415	355,930	3,079,345
CONNECTICUT	490,959	355,144	846,103
DELAWARE	490,959	185,811	676,770
FLORIDA	1,486,005	557,434	2,043,439
GEORGIA	1,971,795	557,434	2,529,229
HAWAII	490,959	185,811	676,770
IDAHO	2,026,303	185,811	2,212,114
ILLINOIS	1,868,626	557,434	2,426,060
INDIANA	1,456,103	557,434	2,013,537
IOWA	1,720,827	300,004	2,020,831
KANSAS	1,837,034	185,811	2,022,845
KENTUCKY	1,466,671	398,163	1,864,834
LOUISIANA	1,512,432	455,931	1,968,363
MAINE	1,095,885	185,811	1,281,696
MARYLAND	591,201	516,595	1,107,796
MASSACHUSETTS	490,959	557,434	1,048,393
MICHIGAN	3,852,337	557,434	4,409,771
MINNESOTA	2,975,854	472,690	3,448,544
MISSISSIPPI	1,490,650	278,012	1,768,662
MISSOURI	2,682,638	552,854	3,235,492
MONTANA	3,167,471	185,811	3,353,282
NEBRASKA	1,794,194	185,811	1,980,005
NEVADA	1,893,961	185,811	2,079,772
NEW HAMPSHIRE	490,959	185,811	676,770
NEW JERSEY	490,959	557,434	1,048,393
NEW MEXICO	2,235,396	185,811	2,421,207
NEW YORK	2,944,914	557,434	3,502,348
NORTH CAROLINA	1,863,262	557,434	2,420,696
NORTH DAKOTA	1,445,326	185,811	1,631,137
OHIO	2,285,877	557,434	2,843,311
OKLAHOMA	1,933,190	339,852	2,273,042
OREGON	2,491,104	307,088	2,798,192
PENNSYLVANIA	4,096,444	557,434	4,653,878
RHODE ISLAND	490,959	185,811	676,770
SOUTH CAROLINA	1,165,832	376,707	1,542,539
SOUTH DAKOTA	1,855,803	185,811	2,041,614
TENNESSEE	2,512,072	526,936	3,039,008
TEXAS	4,909,589	557,434	5,467,023
UTAH	1,884,545	185,811	2,070,356
VERMONT	490,959	185,811	676,770
VIRGINIA	1,651,715	557,434	2,209,149
WASHINGTON	1,776,099	525,803	2,301,902
WEST VIRGINIA	1,245,855	185,811	1,431,666
WISCONSIN	3,150,261	528,512	3,678,773
WYOMING	1,879,022	185,811	2,064,833
PUERTO RICO	490,959	0	490,959
GUAM	163,653	30,969	194,622
VIRGIN ISLAND	163,653	30,969	194,622
AMERICAN SAMOA	163,653	30,969	194,622
MARIANA ISLAND	163,653	30,969	194,622
TOTAL	98,191,789	18,581,126	116,772,915

PRELIMINARY APPORTIONMENT OF FEDERAL AID IN FISH RESTORATION FUNDS
FOR FISCAL YEAR 1999

ALABAMA	2,657,895
ALASKA	9,243,684
ARIZONA	3,899,687
ARKANSAS	3,061,804
CALIFORNIA	9,243,684
COLORADO	4,717,244
CONNECTICUT	1,848,737
DELAWARE	1,848,737
FLORIDA	4,690,820
GEORGIA	3,356,002
HAWAII	1,848,737
IDAHO	3,111,063
ILLINOIS	3,777,038
INDIANA	2,782,086
IOWA	2,505,067
KANSAS	2,800,684
KENTUCKY	2,747,972
LOUISIANA	3,017,330
MAINE	1,848,737
MARYLAND	2,005,927
MASSACHUSETTS	1,848,737
MICHIGAN	6,416,364
MINNESOTA	6,862,042
MISSISSIPPI	2,347,033
MISSOURI	4,706,571
MONTANA	4,318,077
NEBRASKA	2,362,221
NEVADA	2,843,830
NEW HAMPSHIRE	1,848,737
NEW JERSEY	1,848,737
NEW MEXICO	3,368,404
NEW YORK	4,628,593
NORTH CAROLINA	2,942,645
NORTH DAKOTA	1,923,593
OHIO	4,605,723
OKLAHOMA	3,633,915
OREGON	4,309,350
PENNSYLVANIA	4,642,081
RHODE ISLAND	1,848,737
SOUTH CAROLINA	2,368,907
SOUTH DAKOTA	2,392,971
TENNESSEE	4,121,155
TEXAS	9,243,684
UTAH	3,327,482
VERMONT	1,848,737
VIRGINIA	3,054,832
WASHINGTON	4,395,241
WEST VIRGINIA	1,848,737
WISCONSIN	6,084,118
WYOMING	2,939,520
PUERTO RICO	1,848,737
GUAM	616,246
VIRGIN ISLAND	616,246
AMERICAN SAMOA	616,246
MARIANA ISLAND	616,246
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA	616,246
TOTAL	184,873,676