

**Boating Safety-Federal Program****FY2002 Request: \$660,000**  
**Reference No: 32553****AP/AL:** Appropriation  
**Category:** Health/Safety  
**Location:** Statewide  
**Election District:** Statewide  
**Estimated Project Dates:** 07/01/2000 - 06/30/2005**Project Type:** Health and Safety**Contact:** Jim Stratton  
**Contact Phone:** (907)269-8700**Brief Summary and Statement of Need:**

The goal of the State Boating Safety Program is to reduce preventable non-commercial boating accidents and fatalities and promote safe, enjoyable boating in Alaska. Since 1990 an average of 25-30 Alaskans lost their lives annually in non-commercial boating accidents. This is more than 10 times the national average and the highest boating fatality rate in the nation. State boating programs are very effective at reducing these numbers. Since 1971, recreational boating fatalities decreased nationally by 30% even though the number of recreational boats increased by 50%. This funding will provide for boater education and program infrastructure.

**Funding:**

	FY2002	FY2003	FY2004	FY2005	FY2006	FY2007	Total
Fed Rcpts	\$660,000	\$660,000	\$660,000	\$660,000	\$660,000	\$660,000	\$3,960,000
Total:	\$660,000	\$660,000	\$660,000	\$660,000	\$660,000	\$660,000	\$3,960,000

<input type="checkbox"/> State Match Required	<input type="checkbox"/> One-Time Project	<input type="checkbox"/> Phased Project	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> On-Going Project
0% = Minimum State Match % Required		<input type="checkbox"/> Amendment	<input type="checkbox"/> Mental Health Bill

**Operating & Maintenance Costs:**

	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Staff</u>
Total Operating Impact:	0	0
One-Time Startup Costs:	0	
Additional Estimated Annual O&M:	0	0

**Prior Funding History / Additional Information:**

SLA00/CH135 - \$660,000

Alaska has just passed its Boating Safety Act, the last state in the Union to do so. With recognition by the U.S. Coast Guard of a state approved boating safety program, Alaska is now eligible for the maximum funds allowable from motor fuel taxes for boating safety and education programs. With a high fatality and accident rate, Alaska sorely needs to implement this program as rapidly as possible.

**Specific Spending Detail:**

By law, 75% of the funding will be used for boating education programs such as curriculum development, printed materials, instructor training, and school programs. The remainder of the funds will be used for project administration and officer training.

**Project Benefits:**

This is the official boating safety program for Alaska. Through this program, boating fatalities will be decreased and the public will receive information and education on safe boating practices and procedures. As a result of the program, we anticipate an increase in sales for boating safety devices and equipment through Alaskan vendors. We also hope to see a reduction in the cost in search & rescue and body recovery. Program efforts should reduce the economic cost to Alaska families due to boating accidents and fatalities. All boat registration fees will now stay in the state of Alaska instead of being sent to the federal treasury.

**Projected Revenue to the State:**

The federal government will reimburse the state up to a total of 50% of its expenditures on a boating safety program, not to exceed our yearly allocation.

**Project Support:**

The Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation is working closely with the U.S. Coast Guard, the Dept. of Public Safety, the Div. of Motor Vehicles, the Indian Health Service, state boating organizations, safety organizations, and individual boaters.

The program has a long list of public and private supporters, including:

United States Coast Guard & United States Coast Guard Auxiliary  
Alaska Municipal League  
Alaska Boating Association (ABA)  
Valdez Harbor Users Association  
Seward Boat Owners Association  
Whittier Boat Owners Association  
Alaska Wilderness Recreation and Tourism Association  
Knik Canoers and Kayakers  
Alaska Marine Dealer's Association  
Trails and Recreational Access for Alaskans Board (TRAAK)  
Alaska Safety Advisory Council (ASAC)  
Kenai River Special Management Area Citizen's Advisory Board  
Alaska Boating Safety Advisory Council (ABSAC)  
Mat-Su State Parks Citizen's Advisory Board  
Big Lake Community Council  
Sitka State Parks Citizen's Advisory Board  
Denali Safety Council  
Alaska Department of Public Safety  
Alaska Wildland Adventures  
Alaska Department of Health and Social Services - Community Health and EMS section

**Project Opposition:** None**Does this project leverage other funding for the state?**

A fully functional state boating program empowers and assists non-profit organizations to seek additional funding outside government to expand and improve upon the basic program this project funds. The registration fees paid by boaters to the Division of Motor Vehicles brings in new statutory designated program receipts for the state.

**Project History:**

As of 1988, every state and territory except Alaska had established a boating safety program. In July 1998, Governor Knowles established the Office of Boating Safety within the Division of Parks & Outdoor Recreation. In recognition of Alaska's efforts to reduce boating fatalities, Alaska secured conditional program approval and a partial funding allocation from

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the U.S. Coast Guard in Oct. 1998. With the passage of HB108, the Alaska Boating Safety Act, in May, 2000, Alaska became the last state to establish a boating safety program and become eligible to receive the state's full share of federal boating safety and education funding. In FY99 & FY00, Parks was authorized to receive \$660.0 in federal receipts for this program.

### **Alternative Approaches/Financing Considered:**

Other than federal funds, there is no funding option for a boating safety program.

### **Annual Operating and Maintenance Costs:**

Match requirements are met from the program receipts received from boat registrations and a variety of state and local expenditures on eligible projects.