

Sport Fish Recreational Boating and Angler Access

FY2016 Request: \$3,000,000
Reference No: 30432

AP/AL: Appropriation

Project Type: Construction

Category: Natural Resources

Location: Statewide

House District: Statewide (HD 1-40)

Impact House District: Statewide (HD 1-40)

Contact: Charles O. Swanton

Estimated Project Dates: 07/01/2015 - 06/30/2020

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Brief Summary and Statement of Need:

This project allows the Division of Sport Fish to continue to construct and upgrade recreational power boating and sport fish angler access facilities statewide using Sport Fish Restoration apportionment funds comprised of 75 percent federal assistance and 25 percent non-federal match. Federal regulations require that 15 percent of the annual Sport Fish Restoration (Dingell-Johnson/Wallop-Breaux Amendment) apportionment be dedicated to projects that benefit recreational power boaters. Projects include boat launches, mooring floats, parking lots, restrooms, fish cleaning facilities, and other services.

Funding:	FY2016	FY2017	FY2018	FY2019	FY2020	FY2021	Total
Fed Rcpts	\$2,250,000	\$2,250,000	\$2,250,000	\$2,250,000	\$2,250,000	\$2,250,000	\$13,500,000
G/F Match	\$750,000	\$750,000	\$750,000	\$750,000	\$750,000	\$750,000	\$4,500,000
Total:	\$3,000,000	\$3,000,000	\$3,000,000	\$3,000,000	\$3,000,000	\$3,000,000	\$18,000,000

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

Operating & Maintenance Costs:

	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Staff</u>
Project Development:	0	0
Ongoing Operating:	0	0
One-Time Startup:	0	0
Totals:	0	0

Prior Funding History / Additional Information:

- Sec1 Ch18 SLA2014 P52 L33 SB119 \$3,000,000
- Sec1 Ch18 SLA2013 P64 L7 SB18 \$3,000,000
- Sec1 Ch17 SLA2012 P116 L33 SB160 \$2,500,000
- Sec1 Ch5 SLA2011 P83 L18 SB46 \$3,000,000
- Sec7 Ch43 SLA2010 P27 L18 SB230 \$3,100,000
- Sec1 Ch15 SLA2009 P15 L4 SB75 \$3,100,000
- Sec10 Ch29 SLA2008 P148 L14 SB221 \$3,100,000
- Sec4 Ch30 SLA2007 P93 L28 SB53 \$2,800,000
- Sec1 Ch82 SLA2006 P21 L231 SB231 \$2,800,000
- Sec1 Ch3 SLA2005 P55 L18 SB46 \$2,000,000
- Sec1 Ch159 SLA2004 P25 L22 SB283 \$2,000,000

Project Description/Justification:

Sport Fish Restoration (SFR) funds require a match of one state dollar for every three federal dollars, or a state match of 25 percent of the total project cost. The required match dollars are an investment that produces an instant threefold return. Since federal SFR funds are derived from excise taxes on

the sale of sport fishing tackle, this capital request is a user pay/user benefit approach to providing access facilities.

The facilities that result from this project improve recreational boating and sport fishing angler access to the fish and wildlife resources of the state. The Federal Assistance in SFR Act (16 USC 777-777k), also known as the Wallop-Breaux / Dingell Johnson program mandates that 15 percent of the federal funds available to the state be set-aside for boating access improvement and development projects. The annual amount of the federal receipts request is based on a set five-year 15 percent average of Alaska's federal apportionment of SFR funds, (currently covering Federal FY2013-2017). Any portion of the 15 percent set-aside for boating access projects that is unused reverts back to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and is lost to the state; therefore, it is in the state's best interest to utilize these funds.

Sites will be selected so that all regions of the state receive a share of this program. Site development projects will be accomplished in cooperation with local government units and other state agencies. It has been the experience of the department that local communities are very supportive of better access facilities.

This project will provide some new access sites and will renovate or upgrade other sites. Many of the existing access sites throughout the state have either reached the end of their useful life and/or do not meet current standards. These sites no longer adequately serve the public and are very expensive to maintain. The facilities provided by this project will be designed for low maintenance over a service life of 20 years. The facilities will also be accessible to users with disabilities in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

User fees can be established for new and renovated facilities to place them on a self-supporting basis. User fees will be charged where feasible and will be used to offset the cost of site operation and maintenance. Under federal regulations, user fees charged at a facility developed with federal funds must be used for the operation, maintenance, or improvement of the facility. Fees collected in excess of actual site operation and maintenance costs must be credited back to the federal program. This ensures that the users of the facility benefit from the fees they pay.

Development and maintenance of sport angler and recreational boating access facilities and improvements is a core function and goal of the Division of Sport Fish Strategic Plan. One of the performance measures of this goal is to complete construction of a total of five priority boating access projects per year over a five year period. Additional and enhanced recreational boating access facilities are needed in order to provide improved and greater sport fishing opportunity throughout the state.