

# Sport Fish Restoration Fund Overview

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## **Purpose of Sport Fish Restoration Act, also known as Dingell-Johnson (DJ) Act of 1950:**

- Restoration and management of fish species of material value for sport fishing and recreation.
- Provide facilities that create or add to public access for recreational boating.
- Provide aquatic education to public to increase understanding of water resources and associated aquatic life.

## **Eligible Grantees:**

- All State/Territory fish and wildlife agencies with assent legislation.

## **Eligible Projects:**

- Projects restoring, conserving, managing, and enhancing sport fish having material value for sport or recreation.
- Projects enhancing the public's understanding of water resources and aquatic life, assisting them in developing attitudes toward the aquatic environment.

## **Source of Funds:**

- Excise taxes on sport fishing equipment, electric motors, and sonar.
- Import duties on fishing tackle, yachts, and pleasure craft.
- Portion of gasoline tax attributable to motorboats and small engines.
- Interest earned on Sport Fish Restoration & Boating Trust fund.
- Permanent and indefinite apportionment.

## **Distribution Method:**

- Apportioned based on a formula of land and water area along with the number of paid licensed anglers.

## **Spending mandates, fund matching requirements, and/or limitations on availability of funds:**

- Cost reimbursement provides up to 75% federal funding, 25% required from non-federal sources.
- Annual apportionment available for 2 years.
- Only 15% of apportioned funds may be used for aquatic education.
- At least 15% of apportioned funds must be used for acquisition, development, renovation, or improvements of facilities to create or add public access to waters for recreational boating (averaged by region over 5 year period).
- Coastal states must equitably allocate apportionment between freshwater and marine projects in proportion to number of resident marine/freshwater anglers.

## **Special conditions and requirements:**

- Pass and maintain assent legislation restricting the use of license revenue to the administration of the State fish and wildlife agency.
- Submit eligible sport fish restoration projects including boating access and/or aquatic education.
- Submit annual license certification.

## **Governing Guidance:**

- Sport Fish Restoration Act of 1950 (16 U.S.C. 777-777k)
- 50 CFR 80
- 43 CFR Part 12
- USFWS Manual Chapters
- AS 16.05.100-140 – Specific for DJ and PR AS 16.05.130
- Link to the Sport Fish Restoration Program and funding history is found at: <http://wsfrprograms.fws.gov/>

Information derived from Division of Federal Assistance Grant Programs.

## **DJ Apportionment History for Alaska 2004-2014:**

2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
13,026,348	14,734,564	14,542,380	17,454,453	19,916,886	20,222,492	19,477,648	18,234,739	17,488,184	17,993,593	16,287,011

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### How the fund works:

- Since 1950, the original Sport Fish Restoration Act has been investing in fisheries conservation.
- The manufacturer pays the tax to Treasury, passing the tax along the sales chain.
- The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) distributes the funds to each state fishery agency at no less than one percent of total collections and no more than five percent of total collections. This allows small states to receive a fair share and large states can't get a disproportionate share.
- The state submits projects to the FWS for approval that are substantial in character & design.
- The state spends the funds on fish restoration projects approved by the FWS.
- The state pays for the project up front and then is reimbursed with excise tax funds at a rate of 75 cents on the dollar, and the state usually uses license dollars for the match but may also use land value as a match for such things as angler access site projects.
- The state submits Performance Reports to the FWS at the completion of each funded project reporting outcomes and deliverables as well as cost analysis.

### CYCLE OF SUCCESS

