



ISSUE BRIEF

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Washington D.C.

▶ MRAA Supports Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund

Legislative Objective — The Marine Retailers Association of the Americas (MRAA) asks Congress to reauthorize the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund with recommended improvements.

Legislative Background — Capitalization for the Trust Fund is a “user pay” system. Taxes on fishing tackle, import duties on boats and equipment, and a federal excise tax on motorboat gasoline create the \$600 million annual fund.

The Trust Fund was created in 1950 and has been amended and expanded several times since. Re-authorizations in 2009 and 2012 included no changes. The Trust Fund serves as the backbone for fishery conservation and is a critical tool for a diverse set of state and national recreational fishing and boating programs, including: Recreational boating safety; boat manufacturing compliance with federal regulations; fisheries management; habitat conservation; vessel sewage pump-out stations; water and boating access infrastructure programs; and aquatic resource education programs.

As a result of the Trust Fund: More than 5 million people participated in aquatic education classes; more than 3 billion fish have been restocked; upwards of 800,000 acres of lakes and reservoirs have been improved, with more than 600 miles of stream and river improvements; 10,000-plus boat access ramps have been constructed and maintained; 2,355 pump-out stations have been built; 1,200 new transient dock slips have been erected in historic areas; more than 2 million hours have been spent on the water by state law enforcement officers; 13,000 search and rescue missions have been funded; and more than 60,000 people in need have been assisted by state law enforcement officers.

Action Needed — MRAA supports recommendations of the Angling and Boating Alliance. These include the following increases in allocation: Coastal wetlands from 15.36 percent to 18.5 percent; Clean Vessel Account and Boating Infrastructure Grant program from 2 percent to 2.1 percent; Outreach and Participation from 2 percent to 2.2 percent; Sport Fish Restoration from 57 percent to 57.2 percent; and Recreational Boating Safety from 18.5 percent to 18.7 percent. In addition, MRAA supports an allocation of \$300,000 from the 15 percent allotted for angling and boating access to address specific access concerns, and allocating a certain portion of the Clean Vessel program funds for capital improvements to minimize pollutant introduction into our nation's waterways.



ASK CONGRESS...

To support the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund.

▶ Key Facts

- ▶ Fund was created in 1950.
- ▶ Program is funded by “user pay” system.
- ▶ Fund totals \$600 million.
- ▶ Fund improves lakes, rivers and other waterways.

▶ Contact

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