

FISH Sport Fish Restoration Program

The **Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration (WSFR) Program** addresses the challenges of managing America's natural resources with effective, targeted grant programs designed to benefit fish and wildlife while capitalizing on recreational opportunities across the country. The Dingell-Johnson Sport Fish Restoration Act (DJ), passed in 1950, initially authorized grant programs that provide funding to States and territories for fisheries conservation. The Wallop-Breaux Amendment of 1984 expanded the program by adding more tackle and sport fishing equipment under the excise tax and included the Federal fuel taxes attributable to motor boats and small engines. These two legislative acts and associated more-recent efforts support the overall Sport Fish Restoration Program (SFRP). The purpose of the SFRP program is to address conservation and public recreation needs in fresh, estuarine and marine waters. SFRP funds support projects that enhance aquatic habitats and fisheries resources, protect coastal wetlands, and provides critical infrastructure for recreational boaters.

Industry partners pay excise taxes and import duties on fishing and boating equipment and gear used by both anglers and boaters. A small percentage of the Federal fuel taxes attributed to motorboat and small engine fuels is also a source of funding. Federal tax collection agencies are responsible for collecting the excise taxes. The collecting agencies deposit SFRP funds into the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund. These funds are allocated to states and territories based on the amount of surface area of water and the number of license holders.

SFRP-funded projects directly related to sport fish restoration is a cooperative effort involving federal and state government agencies, the sport fishing industry, anglers and boaters. The program has helped state wildlife agencies restore and manage

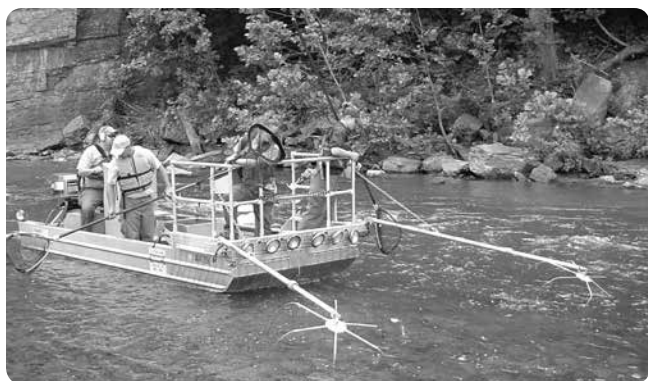


The Teter Creek Lake access site was developed with funds from the Sport Fish Restoration Program.

America's fisheries resources for the benefit of all citizens. As of 2014, the SFR Program provided about \$8 billion nationwide in funds utilized by the states for a variety of eligible activities. In West Virginia, SFRP funds are used to rear and stock fish, enhance habitats in rivers and lakes, and to provide opportunities to gain sound biological information on the status and condition of the diverse fish populations inhabiting West Virginia waters.

Projects dedicated to providing recreational boaters with access to America's waterways by developing new access facilities and renovating or improving existing facilities are also funded through the SFRP. States are required to use 15 percent of SFRP funding on recreational boating access projects. In addition, the program funds fish cleaning stations, parking areas and restrooms, among other boating amenities. West Virginia anglers and boaters have benefited by this program through maintaining and enhancing boating access sites statewide and the construction of new boating access sites when the opportunity is presented.

Overall, the nation and West Virginia anglers, boaters and other outdoor enthusiasts have benefited greatly from this unique users pay-users benefit program and the cooperative efforts of industry, government, anglers and boaters contributing to enhancing America's aquatic resources and associated recreational activities.



Electrofishing methods are used to sample fish populations to determine abundance, density and species composition. The method causes no permanent harm to fish.



Your purchase of fishing equipment and motor boat fuels supports Sport Fish Restoration and boating access facilities