

From: Pemrick, Keith [mailto:Keith.Pemrick@mail.house.gov]
Sent: Friday, December 18, 2009 3:05 PM
To: Pearlman, Ben (HOU)
Subject: FW: Dingell-Johnson Law

Transmittal December 17, 2009

To: The Honorable Tim Holden
Attention: Keith Pemrick

From: Sandra L. Johnson
Informational Research Specialist
202-707-7214

Subject: **The Dingell-Johnson Law
(Constituent: Pearlman)**

The Sport Fish Restoration Act (16 U.S.C. 777-777k, 64 Stat. 430), as amended, is also known as the Dingell-Johnson Act or the Wallop Breaux Act. The act provides federal aid to the states for management and restoration of fish having "material value in connection with sport or recreation in the marine and/or fresh waters of the United States." [1][1] The act authorizes a 10 percent federal excise tax on fishing rods, reels, creels, lures, flies and artificial baits. The tax, collected and supported by the manufacturers, is available to state fish and wildlife agencies through grants-in-aid administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The grant money is apportioned to the states based on a formula (see http://www.fws.gov/SOUTHWEST/federal_assistance/ffi.html#4). The grant program requires the state to pay at least 25 percent of project cost from non-federal funds. In 1984, the Wallop-Breaux Amendment required excise taxes on motorboat fuels and on previously untaxed sport fishing equipment (see <http://wsfrprograms.fws.gov/>). Additional amendments in 1990, 1992 and 1998 expanded the program's taxable items and activities to include the establishment of the Aquatic Resources Trust Fund and funding for aquatic education, wetlands conservation and boating access and safety. Only state fish and wildlife agencies may apply for funds.

According to David O'Brien, Congressional Affairs Specialist, NOAA Office of Legislative Affairs (202)482-5935), amendments to the Act provide funds to the states for aquatic education, wetlands restoration, boat safety and clean vessel sanitation devices (pumpouts), and a non-trailerable boat program. Activities include: land acquisition; development (including boating access sites); research; operations and maintenance; sport fish population management; and program coordination. Law enforcement and public relations are not eligible under the Act. For FY2008 projects included: fish habitat improvements; fish research; surveys; and inventories of sport fish populations and habitats; provision for public use of wildlife resources; development and maintenance of boating access sites; providing aquatic resource education to the public; and the maintenance of wetland and freshwater areas of fishing activity.

If I may be of further assistance, please call me on 77214.

Sandra L. Johnson
Information Research Specialist
Congressional Research Service
Library of Congress
Washington, DC 20540
sjohnson@crs.loc.gov
202-707-7214

“This information is intended only for the congressional addressee or other individual to whom it is addressed and may contain confidential and/or privileged material. Any review, retransmission, dissemination or other use of this information is only at the discretion of the intended recipient. If you received this in error, please contact the sender and delete the material from any computer.”

[\[1\]](#)[1] U.S.C. 16 Sec. 777a.