

Sport Fish Restoration



- Do you* Buy fishing equipment and tackle?
Fuel up your boat?
Purchase a fishing license?

Every time you do these things, you are helping to improve your fishing experience. You are one of many anglers and boaters who participate in the Sport Fish Restoration Program. You support it and you benefit from it!



What is the Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Program?

This program is a cooperative effort among state fish and wildlife agencies, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS), the fishing tackle and boating industry and anglers and boaters to conserve fisheries resources and increase fishing and boating opportunities through the wise investment of anglers' and boaters' excise tax dollars. Funds are collected through:

- Excise taxes on fishing equipment
- Import duties on fishing equipment and boats
- Taxes on motorboat and small-engine fuels

The money collected is managed by the USFWS and distributed to state agencies to fund management activities

Where does the Sport Fish Restoration money go?

The USFWS apportions Sport Fish Restoration funds to state fish and wildlife agencies. Each state's share is based 60% on its number of paid licensed anglers and 40% on the ratio of its inland and coastal water area to its total land area. North Carolina receives approximately \$10 million annually. There funds are distributed to the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC) and N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries (NCDMF) based on the percentage resident freshwater and saltwater anglers. In 2019, NCWRC received 69% or approximately \$7.5 million to support the management of freshwater fisheries resources and habitats, boating and fishing access to public waters, and fishing education and outreach. For each project, 75% of the total cost is provided by Sport Fish Restoration funds and 25% comes from state funds, primarily recreational fishing license fees.



How does the Sport Fish Restoration Program benefit you and North Carolina?

The Sport Fish Restoration Program is a “user pay, user benefit” system of resource enhancement. The NCWRC uses funds, generated from your purchases, provided through the Sport Fish Restoration Program, and matched with your recreational fishing license fees, to conduct projects that enhance boating and fishing opportunities across the State. Examples include:

Research and Survey

- Routine Fisheries Investigations
- Coastal Migratory (Anadromous) Fish Spawning Stock Surveys
- Long-term Monitoring of Selected Wild Trout Populations
- Largemouth, Smallmouth, Spotted, and Alabama Bass Genetics
- Fish Disease Monitoring
- Fisheries Creel Surveys
- Angler Opinion Surveys



Fish Hatchery Production

- Operations at Six Facilities: Watha, McKinney Lake, Table Rock, Marion, Armstrong, and Bobby N. Setzer State Fish Hatcheries
- Production of Catchable and Fingerling Brook Trout, Rainbow Trout, Brown Trout, Muskellunge, Walleye, Striped Bass, Bodie Bass (Hybrid Striped Bass), Largemouth Bass, Smallmouth Bass, White Bass, Sunfish and Channel Catfish to support popular regional fisheries

Aquatic Habitat Enhancement

- Installation and Maintenance of Artificial Fish Attractors
- Harris Reservoir Aquatic Habitat Enhancement
- Mouth of Mud Creek Muskie Spawning and Juvenile Rearing Habitat Restoration

Cooperative Research with Universities

- Population Dynamics of Striped Bass in North Carolina Reservoirs (North Carolina State University)
- Whirling Disease Investigations in North Carolina (Auburn University)
- Economic Study of Inland Recreational Fishing in North Carolina (University of North Carolina Wilmington)
- Population Status and Stock Identification of North Carolina Hickory Shad Using Multiple Techniques (East Carolina University)
- Non-Native Catfish Research in Eastern North Carolina (University of North Carolina Wilmington)

Fishing and Boating Access Development and Maintenance

- 245 Boating Access Areas
- 215 Public Fishing Areas

Fishing Outreach and Education

- Fish-For-Fun Events
- Aquatic Education Programs
- John E. Pechmann Fishing Education Center



More Information:
ncwildlife.org/SFR