



Photo Credit by
Diane Rome Peebles



SPORT FISH RESTORATION FUNDING

The cycle of funding (illustrated below) shows how Louisiana anglers and outdoor enthusiasts support the Sport Fish Restoration Program, and the benefits they receive in return.

When you purchase items such as fishing tackle or motor boat fuel, the federal government collects an excise tax from the manufacturer. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) distributes the funds to state agencies yearly; states receive funding based on a formula using a state's annual number of fishing license sales and the state's land and water area. LDWF manages approximately six to seven million dollars that Louisiana receives annually.



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LOUISIANA SPORT FISH RESTORATION PROGRAM

The Sport Fish Restoration Program is a “user pays, user benefits” system of resource management. The federal and state governments, the sport fishing industry, anglers, and boaters formed the cooperative effort to increase boating and sport fishing opportunities.



Invest in the Future... **Geaux Fish Louisiana!**

SPORT FISH RESTORATION PROJECTS

SPORT FISH TAGGING

What it is: The Sport Fish Tagging Program is a cooperative effort between the Louisiana Department of Wildlife & Fisheries (LDWF), Louisiana State University, and Coastal Conservation Association-Louisiana. The program utilizes a large volunteer angler network to focus on improving our understanding of popular marine sport fish.

What it does: Biologists use information collected from taggers and recaptures, such as length and location of catch, to improve LDWF's understanding of the behavior of Louisiana's important marine sport fishes. LDWF biologists also use satellite tags to improve their understanding of yellowfin tuna. The greater the understanding LDWF biologists have on individual species, the more capable LDWF is of regulating and conserving these species for generations to come.



HATCHERIES

What it is: LDWF has four freshwater hatcheries (Booker Fowler, Beechwood, Monroe, and Lacombe) that produce various freshwater sport fish species.

What it does: These facilities produce fingerling (young fish) bass, catfish, and sunfish that are used to stock public water bodies across the state. One of the species produced by the hatcheries is the Florida strain of largemouth bass, which accounts for the majority of Louisiana's lunker bass.



SAMPLING



What it is: LDWF marine and inland biologists sample the state's fish populations using various means of collection to gather data, such as age and growth, on many of Louisiana's important sport fish.

What it does: With the aid of nets, electrofishing, and diving, biologists across the state are able to sample a wide range of habitats and species. LDWF uses these collected data to create management practices including bag limits, seasons, and stocking schedules.

HABITAT & AQUATIC WEED MANAGEMENT

What it is: LDWF Office of Fisheries assesses the extent of aquatic nuisance plant infestation on recreational fishing habitat and works to control these infestations to improve recreational fishing access.

What it does: Public areas to be treated are carefully evaluated by biologists to maximize control efforts while minimizing damage to desirable plant species. LDWF biologists determine the extent of aquatic weed infestations and then apply Environmental Protection Agency approved herbicides using skiffs, airboats, and occasionally helicopters.

BOATING AND FISHING ACCESS

What it is: One of Fisheries' main objectives is to develop, enhance, and promote public fishing by reducing the barriers to participation. LDWF accomplishes this by building, remodeling, and improving public boat ramps, fishing piers, and shoreline access areas.

What it does: LDWF partners with communities throughout the state in efforts to improve public boating and fishing access. These efforts range from adding handicap access to existing fishing piers, to reconstructing old boat launches. LDWF also works to improve access for boaters in the water by controlling aquatic weeds in and around boat ramps and lanes.

