

National Association of State Boating Law Administrators

RESOLUTION 2008-1

**Statement of Consensus Principles for Reauthorization of
the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund**

**Between the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies and
the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators**

WHEREAS, both the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA) and the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) recognize that the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund (Trust Fund) provides mission critical funding for America's anglers and boaters; and,

WHEREAS, both AFWA and NASBLA recognize the importance of growing recreational angling and boating participation, through recruitment retention initiatives and provisions of access to water, in part to provide continued financial support for fisheries conservation and boating safety programs; and,

WHEREAS, both AFWA and NASBLA recognize that the customer base of both groups overlap and our members are collectively responsible to provide both a safe and enjoyable recreational experience for boating and fishing participants; and,

WHEREAS, both AFWA and NASBLA members recognize that boating and fishing are complimentary activities necessitating collaboration, cooperation and long-term partnering between the two organizations to achieve our mutual objectives; and,

WHEREAS, both AFWA and NASBLA agree that the reauthorization of the Trust Fund is of major importance to the members of both organizations; and,

WHEREAS, AFWA and NASBLA represent two major stakeholder groups for which it is vitally important to be in complete agreement about a common Trust Fund reauthorization proposal; and,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the following consensus principles are adopted by our organizations.

Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund Proposal

- I. All of the existing components or programmatic elements of the Trust Fund remain vital to the continued success of boating, angling and fisheries programs and should be maintained in the next reauthorization cycles.
- II. Increase the monies the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service receives for administrative costs (yet to be determined, but not likely to exceed 2.0%) and provide for an annual inflation adjustment for both the Fish and Wildlife Service and the Coast Guard administrative costs.
- III. The monies for both the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the U.S. Coast Guard Boating Safety Division which are used for grants, commissions, and administrative purposes ("set-asides") will be apportioned from the Trust Fund before the percentage allocations assigned to each program are applied.
- IV. Add the line item funding for commissions in the U.S. Coast Guard "set-asides" from \$0 to \$200,000, in order to cover costs associated with the National Boating Safety Advisory Council. The total funding for the Sport Fishing and Boating Partnership Council (\$400,000) and the fishery commissions (\$800,000) will remain at \$1.2 million.
- V. Change the federal/state matching share for the state recreational boating safety grants from 50/50 to 75/25 to create consistency among all boating and fishing trust fund programs.
- VI. Implement a maintenance of effort clause in the boating safety program, as is done in the Sport Fish Restoration portion of the trust fund.
- VII. Ensure no net loss for Sport Fish Restoration monies in year one and provide for mutual growth of both the Sport Fish Restoration and the boating safety accounts above the 2010 levels for the remainder of the reauthorization period.
- VIII. Explore options for a funding mechanism through which the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service may use a pre-determined portion of the funds dedicated to boating access as grant funding for national nonprofit organizations to accomplish critical projects aimed at improving boating access.
- IX. Recover fine and penalty dollars -- have these monies go to the Trust Fund as opposed to the General Fund.

John Fetterman, President
September 8, 2008