

Coral Reef Grants Workshop, August 2005
Aquatic Education Program
Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS)

Region 4 Coordinator:

Shari Brewer
1875 Century Blvd, Suite 240
Atlanta, GA 30345

Tel: 404/679-4162
Fax: 404/679-4160
e-mail: Shari_Brewer@fws.gov

Description: Authorized as part of the Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Act of 1950. The original Act did not include a provision for aquatic education, however, it was amended in 1984, to include tackle and other fishing equipment as well as aquatic education. Aquatic education funding is not to exceed 10% of the State's total Sport Fish Restoration apportionment. TEA-21 later increased the maximum aquatic resources funding ceiling to 15%.

Sport Fish Restoration funding is an annual apportionment based on the following formula: Each State's share is based 60% its licensed anglers and 40% on its total land and water area. No state may receive more than 5% or less than 1% of each year's total apportionment. Puerto Rico receives 1% and the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa Northern Mariana Islands, and the District of Columbia each receive one-third of 1%.

SFR Funding

FY 2005: \$294,691,282

FY 2004: \$260,526,978

FY 2003: \$265,241,214

Who is eligible? The Program is open to all States, and the common wealth and territories of Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa Northern Mariana Islands, and the District of Columbia. To be eligible, a State must have assented to the provisions of the Act and passed laws for the conservation of fish that include a prohibition against the diversion of license fees paid by anglers for any other purpose than the administration of the State fish and game department (50 CFR 80.3).

What Projects are eligible? Grants for aquatic resources education must have as their purpose the enhancement of the public's understanding of water resources and aquatic life forms and sport fishing, and the development of responsible attitudes and ethics toward the aquatic environment (SFR Act. Sec. 777(a)(3)).

What Projects are not eligible? The Sport Fish Restoration Act prohibits using funds for public relation activities that promote organizations or agencies and that do not apply to educational or technical activities specifically related to accomplishment of Federal Aid grants or programs (50 CFR 80.6(b)). The Act also prohibits grant activities whose main purpose is producing revenue. This includes all processes and procedures directly relating to printing, distribution, issuance, or sale of licenses, permits, etc. imposed by law or regulation. The Act also prohibits the acquisition of real or personal property for

the purpose of rental, lease, sale or other commercial purposed (50 CFR.80.14(C)). Enforcement of game and fish laws and regulations are prohibited, and the establishment, publication, and dissemination of regulations that a State issues pertaining to the protection and utilization of fish and wildlife resources is prohibited.

How to determine eligibility: To be eligible, a State must have assented to the provisions of the Act and passed laws for the conservation of fish that include a prohibition against the diversion of license fees paid by anglers for any other purpose than the administration of the State fish and game department (50 CFR 80.3).

Grant Schedules or Cycles: Most funds are available at the beginning of the National fiscal year October 1, of each year.

Grants Management: Each State/Commonwealth/Territory must submit all required grant application and compliance documents to Federal Assistance and have the federal share obligated within two year of the fiscal year the money was allocated. Federal Assistance requires interim performance and financial reports 90 days after each 12-month cycle of grant activity. Site visits are performed if necessary to observe progress. Final performance and financial reports are due 90 days after the end date of the Grant Agreement.

Project criteria and ranking: This program is non-competitive and only requires that projects are eligible and that the State/Commonwealth/Territory has meet all of the grant management condition.