

Coral Reef Grants Workshop, August 2005
Boating Infrastructure Grant - Program
Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS)

Region 4 Coordinator
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Description: Authorized by Section 7404 of the Sportfishing and Boating Safety Act of 1998. Through this program, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will provide funds to States to install or upgrade tie-up facilities for transient recreational boats 26 feet or more in length.

Who is Eligible? All States, Puerto Rico and Virgin Islands

What Projects are eligible? Construct, renovate, and maintain either publicly or privately owned boat infrastructure tie-up facilities. These can consist of mooring buoys, day-docks, navigational aids (e.g. channel markers, buoys, and directional information), transient slips (slips that boaters with nontrailerable recreational vessels occupy for no more than 10 consecutive days), safe harbors (facilities protected from waves, wind, tides, ice, currents etc., that provide a temporary safe anchorage point or harbor of refuge during storms), floating docks and fixed piers, floating breakwaters and fixed breakwaters, dinghy docks, restrooms, retaining walls, bulkheads, dockside utilities, pumpout stations, recycling and trash receptacles, dockside electric service, dockside water supplies, dockside pay telephone, debris deflection booms, and marine fueling stations.

What Projects are not eligible: A project that is not open to the public, involve law enforcement activities, significantly degrade or destroy valuable natural resources, construct or renovate principal structures not expected to last 20 years, do maintenance dredging, fund operations or routine custodial and janitorial maintenance of the facility, construct, renovate or maintain facilities for other than transient nontrailerable recreational vessels.

How to determine eligibility: Applicants are encouraged to contact the State Boating Infrastructure Grant - Program Coordinator to discuss eligibility of a project and cost share rate prior to proposal submission.

What is fundable, what is not fundable? This Grant Program is a competitive program. Project selection is done under Tier I or Tier II. Under Tier I, each State is authorized up to \$100,000 to award without national competition. If a State has more than \$100,000 in proposals for Tier I, then the State will decide which projects will be funded. States may submit as many Tier II projects as they like for national competition, and there is no maximum limit on the Federal funds requested. However, there is only about \$5 million available each year for Tier II funding. The Regional Federal Assistance Offices decide whether a proposal should be accepted for consideration (based on character and design). Proposals that do not qualify are returned to the State. Once the Region accepts all Tier II proposals they are ranked according to the criteria provide in the final rule, and forward to the Washington Office of Federal Assistance. The Washington Office will then set up a date for a national review committee made up of the Regional Coordinators to meet and rank the

Tier II proposals as a group. Recommendations for funding are made and are then forwarded to the Director of the Service for final review and approval.

Grants Schedules or Cycles: Proposals are normally due to the Regional Offices by October. Tier II proposals are due to the Washington Office by November, and the nation committee will normally meet in January. Tier II funding is normal announced in April/May.

Grants Management: Each State/Commonwealth/Territory must submit all required grant applications and compliance documents to the Federal Assistance Office and have the federal share obligated within three years 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: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service ranks proposals using the following 8 criteria: 1) Provide partnership efforts; 2) Use innovative techniques; 3) Include other funding sources; 4) Are cost efficient; 5) Provide way point linkage; 6) Provide access to opportunities; 7) Provide significant economic impacts; 8) Include multi-state efforts.