

Facts about Conservation and Dingell-Johnson Funding

- Modeled after the Wildlife Restoration Act, the Sport Fish Restoration Act was passed in 1950.
- The Sport Fish Restoration legislation was sponsored by Senator Edwin Johnson of Colorado and **Representative John Dingell, Sr. of Michigan**.
- The distribution formula for sport fish funds is based 40 percent on a state's size in square miles, including land and both inland and coastal waters, in proportion to other states, and 60 percent on annual license sales, also in proportion to license sales in other states.
- In 1984, [the Sport Fish Restoration Act](#) expanded. The "[Wallop-Breaux](#)" amendment included additional fishing equipment in the calculation, an import duty on recreational boats, and a portion of marine fuel tax revenue. This amendment included funding for aquatic education programs as an eligible activity.
- Revenue sources: motorboat fuel (54%), small engine fuel (15%), fishing equipment (9%), interest (9%), import duties (6%), fishing rods (35), tackle boxes and electric motors (1%).
- State's matching sources: A formula that includes 40 percent based on land area, including inland and coastal waters, and 60 percent based on number of paid licensed anglers in proportion to the national total. Michigan ranks seventh in the U.S. for the amount of DJ funds it receives.
- Since its inception in 1950, DJ has provided more than \$255 million to Michigan for sport fish restoration and management, public access for recreational boating and aquatic education.
- Michigan DNR has received between \$11 million and \$13.3 million each year from DJ for each of the past five years. Approximately \$6.5 million goes to manage [Michigan DNR fish hatcheries](#), including fish stocking activities each year.
- Major projects in Michigan within the last five years include:
 - Au Sable River Habitat Restoration (placing trees to restore habitat)
 - Mitchell Canal Seawall (replace failing wooden sea wall with steel sheetpile sea wall at Mitchell State Park in Cadillac)
 - Improvement of the [Michigan Recreational Boating System website](#)
 - Sleepy Hollow State Park Boating Access Site improvements
 - Experimental rearing of Atlantic salmon at Platte River State Fish Hatchery

- DJ and license fees combined provide approximately 96 percent of the revenue used by the DNR Fisheries Division. Everyday taxpayers do not contribute to DJ, only those who purchase fishing equipment.
- The vast majority of sport fish restoration is paid for by anglers who buy fishing equipment and licenses and those who purchase fuel for motorboats. Anyone who enjoys Michigan's lakes, rivers and streams benefits from these purchases.

Anglers, thank you for all you have done for Michigan's fishery. If you know an angler, thank them for their continual investment in Michigan's fishery.