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**Supplemental Report on the Atlantic Coastal State Marine  
Sport Fish Restoration Projects to Augment the Federal Aid  
Information Reporting System**

**December 1995**

**Supplemental Report on Atlantic Coastal State  
Marine Sport Fish Restoration Projects  
To Augment the  
Federal Aid Information Reporting System (FAIRS)**

By

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**Supplemental Report on Atlantic State Marine Sport Fish Restoration Projects  
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**Introduction**

Millions of dollars of angler and boater tax contributions to the Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Program (Wallop-Breaux) are invested annually in sport fish projects through apportionments to the states. Quite often the benefits derived from these projects are not obvious in terms of immediate, tangible products. For example, improvements in water quality and/or fish habitat are not as obvious as a new boat ramp or dockside pumpout station. For this reason, those paying the tax often feel that their contributions end up somewhere in the black hole of State and Federal budgets.

Tracking the money collected and expended in the Wallop-Breaux Program is the responsibility of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service within the Division of Federal Aid. The Division of Federal Aid maintains internal programs to accomplish this task. However, as a public agency, they often are called upon to produce specific information for many specific purposes to appease a variety of constituent interests. The requests often outstrip the capabilities of the programs which were designed for other purposes. One such program within Federal Aid is the Federal Aid Information Reporting System (FAIRS). FAIRS was designed for internal purposes to track and collect information on each state project funded with Federal Aid money. States are requested to provide basic information on costs, objectives, and benefits of each project to the regional offices of the USFWS for input into FAIRS. It is not mandatory for states to provide this information, and the format for such information varies from

region-to-region and state-to-state. At present, FAIRS is the only national database which collects such information. Requests for information from FAIRS for cost benefit type analyses are met with limited data since this was not what the program was originally intended for. In particular, information relative to Atlantic coastal state saltwater Wallop-Breaux projects is lacking in many instances.

As partners in the stewardship of shared national fishery resources, the states share a responsibility with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in accounting for disposition of Federal aid allocated to restore sport fisheries within their respective jurisdictions. It becomes incumbent on the states to account for expenditure of these public dollars and provide information on measurable benefits of such projects.

The purpose of this report is to present information collected from the Atlantic coastal states relative to saltwater sport fishery projects executed with state allocations of Wallop-Breaux money. The information collected is intended to augment information collected by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services in their FAIRS database and make such information available to the public in support of this vital and exemplary national program.

## **Methods**

Information on benefits derived from state Wallop-Breaux projects was collected via a mail questionnaire and telephone. The questionnaire was developed in conjunction with a national effort sponsored by the American League of Anglers and Boaters (ALAB), a coalition of organizations representing the various constituencies of the Wallop-Breaux Program. The ALAB questionnaire was developed as a template for the various interests (fresh water

and saltwater fisheries, boating access, boating safety, etc.). The intent was to highlight high profile projects for public outreach and recognition in order to build champions for the program in state and Congressional legislatures to assure the continued support for and integrity of the program during austere budget climates. The questionnaire developed for this report was modified from the general ALAB questionnaires to be specific for state marine projects. A copy of the marine version of this questionnaire used in this study is provided in Appendix A.

The marine version of the ALAB questionnaire first was sent to Florida and New York to review and fine tune prior to mailing to all Atlantic coastal states. In order to assure a national focus for this effort, the questionnaire also was sent to the Gulf States and Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commissions to collect information from state marine agencies in their respective regions.<sup>1</sup> After the questionnaire was fine tuned for the Atlantic coastal states, the questionnaire was mailed to state coordinators of sport fish restoration programs. A list of these contacts is contained in Appendix B. Respondents were requested to provide information a separate questionnaire for each project reported on.

## **Results**

A fifty percent response rate was achieved on the questionnaire with the states of New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Delaware, North Carolina, Georgia, and Florida responding. Georgia reported on four project all of which were included under U.S Fish and Wildlife Service project number F-62 entitled "Georgia Marine Fisheries Research, Surveys, and Development." These projects included and artificial reef project, a fishing pier, assessment of red drum populations, and an angler's guide to fishing access. North Carolina

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<sup>1</sup>This report does not attempt to present information for state projects other than for the Atlantic coastal state marine agencies.

reported on six projects, three of which are included in USFWS project number F-32 (boat ramp renovation, fishing pier, and construction of a parking lot with handicapped access to an adjacent fishing pier), USFWS number F-31 (finfish catch, effort and participation), USFWS number F-42 (survey of finfish populations), and USFWS number F-43 (life histories of selected marine finfish). Delaware reported on three projects including one boating access project (USFW proj. no. F-55-D-1), an aquatic education project (USFWS proj. no. F-43-E-5), and an artificial reef/habitat improvement projects (USFWS proj. no. F-48-D-3). Pennsylvania reported on four projects: one aquatic education (USFWS proj. no. F-69-E-7), and two habitat improvement projects (both under USWFS proj. no. F-11-1). New York reported on six projects including: a boat ramp (USWFS proj. no. F-42-D), tidal wetlands and estuary management programs and management, enhancement of marine finfish, and Hudson River Survey for Striped Bass (all three under USWFS proj. no. FA-5-R), Dyckman Street fishing pier (USWFS proj. no. F-45-D), and Gateway National Park Access road (USWFS proj. no. F-44-D-2). New Jersey reported seven projects including; Union Lake boat access (USWFS proj. no. FW-6-D), New Jersey artificial reefs (USWFS proj. no. F-69-D), stream habitat enhancement (USWFS proj. no. F-48-R), aquatic education (USWFS proj. no. ?), inventory of NJ coastal waters (USWFS proj. no. F-54-R), computerized fish and wildlife database (USWFS proj. no. FW-64-T), and technical assistance (USWFS proj. no. FW-56-T).

## **Discussion**

At present, the proper vehicle to compile and report detailed information provided by the respondents on these projects has not been worked out. The original intent of this study was to enter such information in the FAIRS

database, thus filling in the data gaps present for Atlantic coastal marine projects. Since initiation of this study differing request for information so compiled has caused the USFWS Division of Federal Aid to reexamine its FAIRS database and study the potential to establish a new database. The new database is to be called the Federal Aid Information Management System (FAIMS). Input from Wallop-Breaux Program constituents is being sought in development of this data base. A final format has yet to be established. Therefore, it has become beyond the scope of this report to provide a uniform presentation of all the information collected via the questionnaire used in this study.

The states have been badgered over recent years from a variety of sources to provide information relative to their Sport Fish and Wildlife Restoration projects. Varying degrees of success in answering questions have been achieved. This is reflective of the varying degrees of success in asking the proper questions. Many of the same questions continue to be asked in different manners with differing underlining motivations. As a whole, the Atlantic coastal states have demonstrated repeatedly, their desire to present any and all information necessary to assure continued support for the vital sport fish restoration programs of the Wallop-Breaux Program. However, they appear to be growing weary of the questions. This can account for the relatively low response rate to this survey.

The question of accounting for, and quantifying the relative benefits for state Wallop-Breaux projects is difficult to answer. As mentioned earlier, without immediate tangibles, measurement of real project benefits must be accomplished over the long term with regular monitoring and evaluation required. In order to record comparable benefit measures across a variety of projects, guidance is needed to set a framework for measureable outputs.



With the Sport Fish Restoration Program only recently celebrating its 10th anniversary, trend line data is just now becoming available for analyses. However, many projects have not been conducted over that period of time and monitoring and evaluation requirements for many have never been established. The "new project" requirement for Wallop-Breaux funding has focused on a quick turn around in project benefits. This leaves it necessary for states to project what the benefits could be over a given period of time. Establishment of a framework for requirements to monitor and evaluate the long term and short term benefits should be examined as well as what items should be included and how these measurements should be presented. Determining these elements could best be accomplished by developing dialogue between the states and other recipients of Wallop-Breaux funds, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and other relevant Federal agencies. The interstate marine fisheries commissions and the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies can provide a critical link in coordination of state involvement.

**APPENDIX A:  
MARINE VERSION OF THE ALAB QUESTIONNAIRE**

## **WALLOP-BREAUX -- Telling the Story Ten Years of Success**

We are seeking your help in identifying one important project in each of the following categories accomplished in your state using Wallop-Breaux/Sportfish Restoration Account funding since October 1985. In selecting each project, we ask you to use the following criterion: *"If I were asked by a star reporter at the most important newspaper in the state for a single example of the importance of federally-aided projects in this category, my example would be:"*

**1. Boating Access Improvements**

Project #1a: High cost \_\_\_\_\_ Project #1b: Low Cost

**2. Habitat Enhancement**

Project #2a: High cost \_\_\_\_\_ Project #2b: Low Cost

**3. Aquatic Resources Education**

Project #3a: High cost \_\_\_\_\_ Project #3b: Low Cost

**4. Fisheries Research and Statistics**

Project #4a: High cost \_\_\_\_\_ Project #4b: Low Cost

**5. Sport Fishing Access Improvements (e.g., Parking, Fishing Piers, Better Bank Access, Handicapped Access, etc.)**

Project #5a: High cost \_\_\_\_\_ Project #5b: Low Cost

**6. Information and Outreach**

Project #6a: High cost \_\_\_\_\_ Project #6b: Low Cost

**PROJECT #1B: BOATING ACCESS IMPROVEMENTS (LOW COST)**

State \_\_\_\_\_ USFWS Project No. \_\_\_\_\_

The project name: \_\_\_\_\_

Its physical location: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of project start/completion: \_\_\_\_\_ on going \_\_\_\_\_

1) What is the estimated useful life of the project?: \_\_\_\_\_

2) The contact person for additional information on the project:

name: \_\_\_\_\_ title: \_\_\_\_\_

agency: \_\_\_\_\_

address: \_\_\_\_\_

phone: \_\_\_\_\_ fax \_\_\_\_\_

3) Please provide a brief description of the project objectives (please restrict to less than one page, although supplemental information may also be provided.)

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4) Please quantify the capital investment in the project, and the amount of funding provided through Wallop-Breaux (federal share):

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5) Please list all partners (those who have contributed either cash or in-kind services) involved in the project, both in construction/start-up and in on-going operations; and describe each partner's contributions:

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6) Please provide information about operational costs for the project annually, and how these costs are being met

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7) Please provide any public use data for the project, ie. geographic origins of users, rural or urban community served, public transportation available, etc:

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8) Please describe ways by which the project is made visible to the public (on-site signage, state brochure or map, other means):

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9) Has there been any type of event at the site involving key federal, state or local elected officials? If so, please describe and include any available media clippings:

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10) Are there any significant public events which take place at the project site (i.e. fishing tournaments, take-a-kid fishing, educational programs, ect.) If so, please describe:

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11) Please provide **quantifiable benefits** of the project especially regarding the number of persons (anglers or boaters) who will benefit from the project (new boater days, reduced accidents or fatalities):

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\* Please enclose any available maps, brochures, videos ect. on the project.

Person completing this survey \_\_\_\_\_

Agency \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number \_\_\_\_\_

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ASSISTANCE

**APPENDIX B:**  
**STATE SPORT FISH RESTORATION COORDINATORS**

## State Sport Fish Restoration Coordinators

### **New Hampshire:**

Charles Miner (603)271-3511

### **Rhode Island:**

Richard T. Sisson (401)789-3094

### **Massachusetts:**

Paul Diodati (617)727-3193 x364

### **Connecticut:**

Tony Petrillo (860)424-3479

### **New York:**

Arthur Newell (516)444-0432

### **New Jersey:**

Fred Snyder (609)292-6481

### **Pennsylvania:**

Brian Barner (717)450-7495

### **Delaware:**

Lynn Herman (302)739-5296



**Maryland:**

George Herlth (410)974-3558

**Virginia:**

Jack Travelstead (804)247-2247

**North Carolina:**

Maury Wolff (919)726-7021

**South Carolina:**

Wayne Waltz (803)762-5094

**Georgia:**

Ron Michaels (912) 264-7218

**Florida:**

Virginia Vail (904)922-4340

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