

Conservation

The Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund

is the backbone for fisheries conservation and provides critical funding for state and national fishing and boating programs.

CONSERVATION DOLLARS AT WORK

In the past 8 years, the Trust Fund has supported:

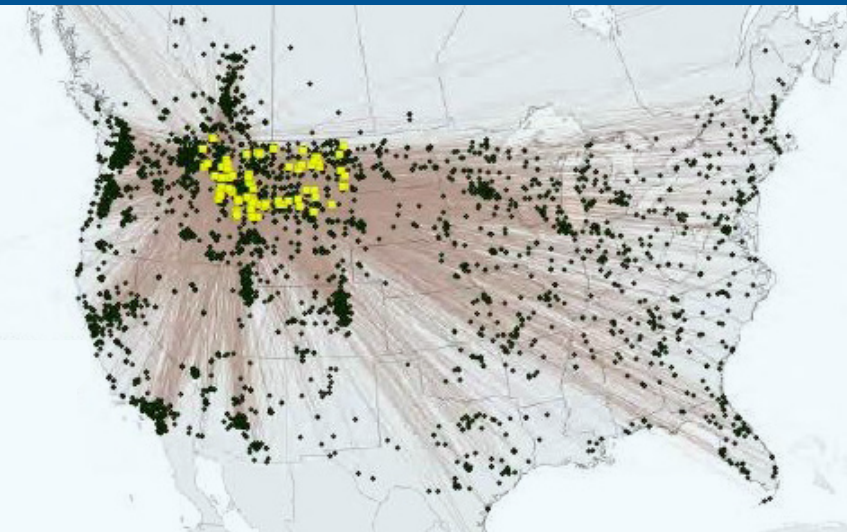
3.8 BILLION	fish stocked annually
11,000	boat ramps and access sites created and improved
4.7 MILLION	students taught aquatic education
64,000	acres of fish habitat protected
6,000	boat sewage pump out stations constructed



Boaters and anglers lead the way in preserving our nation's waterways, contributing:

\$600 million annually from motor boat fuel and fishing equipment excise taxes.

PREVENTING AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES



Recreational boats travel throughout North America, and the threat of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) is nationwide.

SOURCE
Postal Code Locations for Water Users at Watercraft Inspection Stations Operated by Montana, Fish, Wildlife & Parks in 2015

■ INSPECTION STATION LOCATION
● WATER USER POSTAL CODE

- ▶ The spread of harmful plants, animals and other organisms threaten America's water habitats and have lasting economic damage for the boater, local community, and boating industry.
- ▶ Marine manufacturers and the industry are doing their part to examine design controls which help prevent the spread of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS).
- ▶ AIS is not only Asian Carp in the Great Lakes, but also invasive quagga-zebra mussels in the West, and invasive grasses like hydrilla in the Potomac River and salvinia in the Gulf of Mexico.
- ▶ AIS impacts not only the boating industry but local economies, businesses and tourism.
- ▶ Pump out and decontamination stations are an important tool to fight the spread of AIS at boat ramps!

ACTIONS FOR LEADERS TO TAKE

- 1 Authorize a new federal study of AIS prevention efforts to get a clear picture of best practices for decontamination and inspection.
- 2 Provide full funding (\$360,000) for Regional Panels of the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force to ensure these essential panels can continue their functions in preventing and educating on AIS.