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# Resolution 2008-01-05 Statement of Consensus Principles For Reauthorization of the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund Between the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies and the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators

Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies

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**Resolution 2008-01-05**

**STATEMENT OF CONSENSUS PRINCIPLES FOR REAUTHORIZATION OF  
THE SPORT FISH RESTORATION AND BOATING TRUST FUND**

**BETWEEN THE ASSOCIATION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE AGENCIES AND  
THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE BOATING LAW ADMINISTRATORS**

**WHEREAS**, both the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA) and the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) recognize that the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund (Trust Fund) provides mission critical funding for America's anglers and boaters; and,

**WHEREAS**, both AFWA and NASBLA recognize the importance of growing recreational angling and boating participation, through recruitment-retention initiatives and provisions of access to water, in part to provide continued financial support for fisheries conservation and boating safety programs;

**WHEREAS**, both AFWA and NASBLA recognize that the customer base of both groups overlap and our members are collectively responsible to provide both a safe and enjoyable recreational experience for boating and fishing participants; and,

**WHEREAS**, both AFWA and NASBLA members recognize that boating and fishing are complimentary activities necessitating collaboration, cooperation and long-term partnering between the two organizations to achieve our mutual objectives; and,

**WHEREAS**, both AFWA and NASBLA agree that the reauthorization of the Trust Fund is of major importance to the members of both organizations;

**WHEREAS**, AFWA and NASBLA represent two major stakeholder groups for which it is vitally important to be in complete agreement about a common Trust Fund reauthorization proposal;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the following consensus principles are adopted by our organizations.

**Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund Proposal**

All of the existing components or programmatic elements of the Trust Fund remain vital to the continued success of boating, angling, and fisheries programs and should be maintained in the next reauthorization cycle.

- Increase the monies the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service receives for administrative costs: either 1.6 % of the fund total or 11.78 million dollars plus an annual inflation adjustment for both the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the U.S. Coast Guard administrative costs based on the current law's CPI. The State-Federal Joint Task Force will discuss the administrative costs at a future date.

- The monies for both the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the U.S. Coast Guard Boating Safety Division which are used for grants, commissions, and administrative purposes ("set-asides") will be apportioned from the Trust Fund before the percentage allocations assigned to each program are applied.
- Add the line item funding for commissions in the U.S. Coast Guard "set-asides" from \$0 to \$200,000, in order to cover costs associated with the National Boating Safety Advisory Council. The total funding for the Sport Fishing and Boating Partnership Council (\$400,000) and the fishery commissions (\$800,000) will remain at \$1.2 million.
- Change the federal/state matching share for the state recreational boating safety grants from 50/50 to 75/25 to create consistency among all boating and fishing trust fund programs.
- Implement maintenance of effort clause in the boating safety program, as is done in the Sport Fish Restoration portion of the trust fund.
- Ensure no net loss for Sport Fish Restoration monies in year one and provide for mutual growth of both the Sport Fish Restoration and the boating safety accounts above the 2010 levels for the remainder of the reauthorization period.
- Explore options for increased funding in support of angler and boating participation programs including related outreach initiatives.
- Recover fine and penalty dollars -- have these monies go to the Trust Fund as opposed to the General Fund.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,**

That AFWA and NASBLA work collaboratively with other partners to address new or additional legislation considerations.

That AFWA staff have some flexibility, to adjust or adapt its legislative negotiations, in keeping with these principles and with prior approval of the Executive Committee.

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*Approved by-AFWA's Executive Committee on July 28, 2008.*

*Approved with amendments by the Fisheries and Water Resources Policy Committee on September 9, 2008.*

*Approved with no amendments by the Angler and Boating Participation Committee on September 10, 2008.*

*Approved with one revised principle (for consideration by the Executive Committee) by the Fish and Wildlife Trust Funds Committee on September 10, 2008.*

*Approved with amendments by the Executive Committee on September 10, 2008.*