

INPUT RECEIVED ON RECREATIONAL FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

From U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

■(WASHINGTON) Working with landowners to improve fisheries habitat and access, compiling comprehensive data on the economic benefits of fishing, and increasing public awareness were major topics of discussion when more than 75 representatives of state natural resource agencies, conservation groups, Native American Tribes, and the fishing and boating industries met in Phoenix, Arizona, October 22, 1996.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and other Federal agencies are working to better define their role in enhancing recreational fishery resources, partly in response to key policies such as a Presidential Executive Order on Recreational Fisheries issued in 1995. The Phoenix meeting focused on other stakeholders' roles and how to better coordinate recreational fisheries management.

"The group generated a lot of food for thought by identifying key fisheries issues around which America's angling interests can join hands and work together," said Acting Fish and Wildlife Service Director John Rogers. "I am encouraged by the strong consensus on conserving fish habitats that emerged during the meeting and look for-

ward to great progress in rebuilding fisheries across America."

The National Fisheries Stakeholders Meeting was sponsored by the Sport Fishing and Boating Partnership Council and the American Sportfishing Association. The Council serves as a Federal advisory panel on fishing and boating issues to the Secretary of the Interior through the Service director. The American Sportfishing Association is a non-profit trade association representing the sportfishing industry.

The meeting in Phoenix focused on four areas of fisheries management: habitat conservation, development and maintenance of access facilities, public education, and partnerships.

The categories correspond with those outlined in the Recreational Fishery Resources Conservation Plan developed earlier this year by Federal agencies. The plan outlines Federal agencies' role in improving recreational fishery resources and fishing opportunities.

For habitat conservation, the group's top recommendations were to develop partnerships with private landowners to protect aquatic habitats, expand matching fund pro-

grams for habitat projects, and develop major watershed plans.

Other topics were creating a systematic monitoring system for habitat health, increasing public awareness of fisheries habitat issues, ensuring Federal and state management goals are complementary, and creating financial incentives and technical assistance for watershed councils.

For fishing access, the group's top recommendations were to develop incentives for private landowners to provide access to fishing, dedicate a state marine fuel tax to finance access, and provide adequate access to urban fisheries.

The group also discussed ranking regional access needs, increased cooperation between public agencies and the private sector to provide more access, enhancing access to major river fisheries, increasing partnerships with local agencies to offset costs of new access, and requiring Federal projects to provide access.

For public education, the group's top recommendations were to establish more urban fishery enhancement programs; develop ways to measure the success of education and outreach programs; and increase partnerships among conservation organizations, sportfishing groups, and outdoor clubs.

The group also supported mentor programs for young anglers, increasing angler ethics education, creating more user-friendly programs for schools and civic organizations, establishing fisheries education centers in urban areas, and establishing fishing tackle loaner programs.

For partnerships, the group's top recommendations included more industry promotion of the economic importance of fishing and continuing fisheries stakeholder meetings on a regular basis.

The group also recommended increased promotion of fishing benefits, adopting an "ecosystem approach" to fisheries management wherever possible, making common resources available through the Internet, and more cooperative work to control non-native species and fish diseases.

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lent, aggressive, intimidating or other disruptive behavior. Baltimore Public Schools, in collaboration with Cornell University Medical Center, will use its grant to implement a drug abuse prevention program for two inner-city middle schools.

Roanoke City, VA schools will develop and implement a truancy prevention program to provide a comprehensive range of educational and support services to reduce violence, drug use and juvenile crime in 11 elementary schools and five middle schools.

Field-Initiated Research Grants

Grants to 47 research projects were announced recently under the 1996 program. Grant recipients will generate topics and methods. National Institute Grantees and projects include:

- Student Achievement, Curriculum and Assessment awarded 13 grants for projects on school violence prevention, educational technology, school organization and instruction in core content areas.

- Education of At-Risk Students awarded 15 grants in the areas of improved learning for Native American Students, for children with limited English proficiency and in schools where most students live in poverty.

- Early Childhood Development and Education awarded seven grants for studies of young children with disabilities, young children growing up in violent neighborhoods, and parenting and readiness of preschool children, among others.

- Educational Governance, Finance, Policymaking and Management awarded six grants for studies of professional development in low-achieving schools, charter schools and professional development schools, school choice policies and using math specialists in elementary schools.

- Post-secondary Education, Libraries and Lifelong Learning awarded six grants for studies that include: public libraries in low income areas, effective adult learning in museums, basic skill instruction through community networks and Internet to adults.

Adult Learning

Recently, grants were announced to continue support for 45 workplace literacy projects in 27 states, designed to help workers retool skills and keep pace with changes in the workplace. The grants support education and training in literacy, computation, problem solving, English as a second language and other skills.

"Discipline does not mean suppression and control, nor is it adjustment to a pattern or ideology. It means a mind that sees 'what is' and learns from 'what was.'"

Jiddu Krishnamurti