

February 12, 2010

Brian Bohnsack, PhD
Recreational Boating and Fishing Liaison
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Division of Program and Partnership Support
Mailstop AEA-3103
4401 Fairfax Drive
Arlington, VA 22203

Dear Dr. Bohnsack,

As representatives of national fish conservation organizations, we write today to endorse the application of the Recreational Boating & Fishing Foundation (RBFF) to implement the National Outreach and Communication Program in fiscal years 2010-2012.

RBFF has been at the forefront of finding new and innovative ways to introduce outdoor enthusiasts to the sports of boating and fishing. They have partnered with numerous conservation organizations within our community to offer support, guidance and a variety of products and programs to generate enthusiasm for boating and fishing, helping to build an important national constituency for aquatic resource conservation. RBFF, through its work, has substantially increased participation in these activities through outreach and education and by making it easy for people to get involved.

RBFF has a strong record of accomplishment that speaks to its basic effectiveness. Since its reauthorization in 2005, RBFF has achieved the following measures of success:

- 1 Million Newcomers and Youth Introduced to Boating and Fishing
- 1.3 Million Fishing Licenses Purchased
- \$19.5 Million Generated for State Conservation Efforts
- \$64.8 Million Generated for the Boating and Fishing Industries

Now more than ever, in the face of challenging economic times, we urge you to continue to fund RBFF so that it can keep the momentum going to increase participation in boating and sportfishing and to promote awareness of the need for greater conservation of aquatic resources, particularly among the nation's youth. Plain and simple, RBFF's 12-year history of success and strong staff expertise position the organization for more success in the future.

We hope that you will continue the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's history of support for this important and valuable institution.

Sincerely,

American Fisheries Society
American Fly Fishing Trade Association
American Sportfishing Association
B.A.S.S./ESPN Outdoors
Berkley Conservation Institute
Center for Coastal Conservation

Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation
Federation of Fly Fishers
National Marine Manufacturers Association
Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership
Trout Unlimited