

Overview of Projects Funded from the Marine Resources Fund

Net revenue generated from the sales of the Coastal Recreational Fishing License (CRFL) is deposited in one of two funds.

All net revenue generated from lifetime licenses are deposited in the Marine Resources Endowment Fund. Only interest from this fund can be obligated to projects. To help build the principle available in the fund to maximize interest, it was decided not to obligate any money from this fund for several years. No projects have been obligated from this fund.

All net revenue generated from the 10-day and annual licenses are deposited in the Marine Resources Fund. The principle and interest from this fund can be obligated to projects. The Marine Fisheries Commission and Wildlife Resources Commission must approve all projects, although two projects are legislatively mandated. To date, six projects have been funded from the Marine Resources Fund. These are:

- **Chowan River Bridge Project - \$200,000**
The Wildlife Resources Commission is the lead agency for this project. Funds were allocated for the design to convert the old Chowan River Bridge crossing highway 17 into a public fishing access area.
- **Coastal Angler's Guide - \$100,000:**
The Division of Marine Fisheries is the lead agency for this project. Funds were allocated to generate a publication to be distributed to coastal anglers for use as a reference for coastal recreational fishing in North Carolina. In the publication, information is provided on the required licenses, habitats, artificial reefs, identification and profiles of the multitude of fish found in North Carolina's coastal fishing waters. 149,000 of these guides were printed and are available to anglers at no cost.
- **Coastal Recreational Fishing License Implementation and Support/Maintenance - \$381,908 (legislatively mandated)**
The Division of Marine Fisheries is the lead agency for this project. This project is legislatively mandated. The project provides the division the necessary technical support and infrastructure to implement the Coastal Recreational Fishing License.
- **Coastal Recreational Fishing License Sales and Data Support - \$485,979**
The Division of Marine Fisheries is the lead agency for this project. This project improves the division's license sales and customer service capability, including improving internal and external license sales, enhancements, maintenance, supervision, etc. at division license sales offices. Additionally, the project provides support for license data access and analyses of recreational angler catch and participation in fulfillment of the development of fisheries management plans as stipulated in the Fisheries Reform Act of 1997.
- **Senior Stock Assessment Scientist - \$109,420 (legislatively mandated)**
The Division of Marine Fisheries is the lead agency for this project. This project is legislatively mandated. The project will produce peer-approved quantitative stock assessments in a timely manner for inclusion in state and federal Fishery Management Plans as well as for use in daily management.

- **Fisheries Independent Assessment Program - \$344,217**
 The Division of Marine Fisheries is the lead agency for this project. This project augments the division's ability to collect and analyze essential data used to produce the Fishery Management Plans, as mandated by the Fisheries Reform Act of 1997, for recreationally important species and to help determine overfishing status, levels of spawning stock biomass, mortality, recruitment and sustainable harvest levels which form the basis for all management actions recommended in FMPs.
- **Edenhouse Public Fishing Pier and Boating Access Area - \$300,000**
 The Wildlife Resources Commission is the lead agency for this project, which is the construction phase of the Chowan River Bridge project mentioned above. Wildlife plans to renovate an existing 600 foot span of an old bridge into a fishing pier, renovate an existing boat ramp facility, and provide parking, lights, sidewalks and restrooms at the site.
- **Coastal Fishing and Oyster Reef Creation – \$445,560**
 The N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries is the lead agency for this project. The division's resource Enhancement Section will build the first of four stages of a new coastal fishing and oyster reef off Gibbs Shoal near Engelhard. The first phase calls for constructing a 7½ acres reef using Class B rip-rap (limestone rock ranging in size from a basketball to a football). When completed, the reef will encompass 30 acres of bottom.
- **Shallow Draft Self-Propelled Reef Construction Barge -- \$65,000**
 The N.C. Division of Marine Fisheries is the lead agency for this project. The division's Resource Enhancement Section will purchase a 40-foot barge that draws 2 feet to use in constructing oyster reefs in sounds and rivers.