

# BOAT FEE REVENUES & EXPENDITURES

## Fiscal Year 2011 Report

**.08**

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Department of Natural Resources  
Conservation and Recreation Division  
December 31, 2011  
Roger Lande, Director



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2005, in order to provide for continued outreach and resources to the citizens of Iowa, the Iowa General Assembly amended Iowa Code Chapter 462A.52 to increase boat registration fees for all types of watercraft, to change the registration cycle, and to begin requiring the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to report on increased revenues and how they are expended until December 31, 2013. This is the fifth such annual report with fiscal year 2011 the second year in the new 3-year cycle for boater registration funds. This report includes data for FY11 and estimates for the upcoming two years of the cycle compared to the base year in 2006.

The increased fees are required to be used to control the spread of aquatic invasive species, the administration of enforcement of navigation laws and for water safety upon the inland waters of the state. The mandate required the Department to submit a report to the General Assembly by December 31 of each year beginning in 2007. It was directed that the report contain, but is not limited to, summarizing the activities of the Department on:

1. Administering and enforcing programs to control aquatic invasive species
2. Administering and enforcing navigation laws and water safety
3. Amount of revenues collected as a result of fee increases
4. Detail of how the revenues were expended
5. Amount and source of all other funds expended
6. Detail of how the funds were expended
7. The amount and source of other funds expended for the above purposes.

### Revenues: Comparisons and projections

When boat fees were increased in the 2005 legislative session, the registration period also was changed from two years to three years. For planning purposes, the Iowa Department of Natural Resources must now plan revenues over three years.

**Table 1**

Previous Revenues Under Two-year Registration Periods				
	<b>FY03</b>	<b>FY04</b>	<b>FY05</b>	<b>FY06</b>
Boat fees	\$2,563,493	\$372,481	\$2,611,295	\$387,908
Federal match	\$1,298,443	\$1,296,070	\$1,411,585	\$1,533,266
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$3,861,936</b>	<b>\$1,668,551</b>	<b>\$4,022,880</b>	<b>\$1,921,174</b>

Boat fees generated an average of \$1,483,794 per year (see Table 1) during the last four years of the two-year registration cycle. With fee increases and the last three years of actual record (09,10 and 11), boat fees average \$2,481,318 per year under the three-year registration cycle. Fiscal Year 2010 was the start of the second three-year registration cycle since the fee increase.

**Table 2**

<b>Collected Revenues, FY2010 and FY2011 with estimated revenues in 2013</b>				
	<b>FY10 (Collected)</b>	<b>FY 11 (Collected)</b>	<b>FY12 (Estimated)</b>	<b>3-Years of Revenue</b>
Boat fees	\$6,144,334	\$899,714	\$399,906	\$7,443,954
Federal match	\$1,491,627	\$1,620,453	\$1,526,664	\$4,638,744
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$7,635,961</b>	<b>\$2,520,167</b>	<b>\$1,926,570</b>	<b>\$12,082,698</b>

Looking at the past three years of collected annual revenue (FY09-FY11) the average increase of boat fees is \$997,524 in additional state revenue per year over the base year. Over the current three-year cycle (FY10-12) an estimated average total of \$4,027,566 is available to expend per year in state and federal monies on boating related activities eligible to be funded from the boat registration fees. Federal funds include the safety and education portion and motorboat access portion from the Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration program, and Aquatic Invasive Species matching funds.

**Expenditures: Comparisons and Projections**

For the purposes of this report, the final year under the previous fee structure, fiscal year 2006, will be the baseline year to measure future years' expenditures. The state salary adjustment each year will be added to the baseline figure, so current programs remain sustainable

**Table 3**

<b>General Expenditure Categories</b>		
	<b>Base FY 06</b>	<b>FY 11</b>
Printing	\$60,274	\$59,480
Boat Safety	*\$2,036,904	*\$2,146,428
Boat infrastructure maintenance/mgt	\$749,406	\$945,207
Aquatic Invasive Species	\$164,556	\$489,508
Water Trails and Dam Safety	\$10,410	\$201,044
Boater Education	\$0	\$196,793
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$3,021,550</b>	<b>\$4,038,460</b>

\*Includes the coded boating time of full time officers and the time of seasonal water patrol officers, and associated expenses. See Tables 9 and 10.

**Table 4**

<b>Expenditure Comparison to FY06 (baseline) to FY11</b>			
	<b>FY06</b>	<b>FY11</b>	<b>Increase over baseline year</b>
Aquatic Invasive Species program	\$164,556	\$489,508	\$324,952
<b>Expanded Enforcement &amp; Safety programs</b>			
Water Patrol Officers (temporary/seasonal)	*\$0	\$144,600	\$144,600
Patrol Boats	\$65,182	\$0	\$(65,182)
Boater Education program		\$196,793	\$196,793
Water Trails & Dam Public Hazard program	\$10,410	\$201,044	\$190,634
Enforcement and safety devoted to boating and navigation	\$1,971,722	\$2,001,828	\$30,106
**Boating recreation and safety infrastructure maintenance and management	\$749,405	\$945,207	\$195,802
Printing expenditures	\$60,274	\$59,480	\$(794.00)
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,021,549</b>	<b>\$4,038,460</b>	<b>\$1,016,911</b>

\*Water patrol officers in FY06 were included in the “baseline enforcement and safety devoted to boating and navigation.” This report starts tracking WPO additions starting in FY07. Please see the note for Table 3.

\*\*Neither the Law Enforcement Bureau nor the Fisheries Bureau has land management or maintenance capacity. The Wildlife Bureau manages and maintains state motor boat access areas, boat ramps, and docks in cooperation with the other bureaus. Note that 75% of the total is Federal Aid in Sport Fish Motorboat Access funds.

**Table 5**

<b>Expenditure Comparison to FY06 (baseline) to FY11</b>		
<b>FY06</b>	<b>FY11</b>	<b>Totals</b>
<b>\$3,021,550</b>	<b>\$4,038,460</b>	<b>Expenditures</b>
	<b>\$1,016,911</b>	<b>Increase over baseline year</b>
	<b>+\$19,976</b>	<b>Comparison to \$996,935 average increase required by code</b>

Over the first five years of the increase authorized by the 2005 legislation, the department has spent over the target increase by +\$1,550,006.

More detailed reporting of program-level expenses follow in this report.

## AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES EXPENDITURES

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources Aquatic Invasive Species Program (DNR-AIS) is responsible for monitoring and managing aquatic invasive species (AIS) in Iowa. Goals of the DNR-AIS as stated in the “Plan for the Management of Aquatic Nuisance Species in Iowa” are:

- I. Minimize the risk of further introductions of AIS into the state of Iowa.
- II. Limit the spread of established populations of AIS into uninfested waters in Iowa.
- III. Eradicate or control to a minimum level of impact the harmful ecological, economic, social, and public health impacts resulting from infestations of AIS in Iowa.

Priority AIS in Iowa include Eurasian watermilfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*), zebra mussels (*Dreissena polymorpha*), bighead carp (*Hypophthalmichthys nobilis*), silver carp (*Hypophthalmichthys molitrix*), brittle naiad (*Najas minor*), and purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*).



This report reflects expenditures for FY11; however, seasonal staff and survey information is from the summer of 2011 (i.e., May through September). Actions utilized to detect, manage, and prevent the introduction and spread of AIS in Iowa in FY11 included employing seasonal staff, developing partnerships to coordinate AIS activities, increasing public awareness of AIS, managing AIS infestations, and monitoring for early detection of AIS. Major accomplishments included the following.

- Employed 5 seasonal Natural Resources Aides
- Conducted 3,644 watercraft inspections reaching over 9,700 people
- Supported 17 partnerships and cooperative projects
- Distributed signs, brochures, identifications cards, banners, posters, tattoos, maps, and regulations booklets statewide
- Leased 14 billboards with AIS prevention messages on interstate and state highways
- Reached statewide audiences regarding AIS prevention with a travelers information system radio broadcast, radio advertisements, local television programming, news releases, radio and television interviews, and presentations
- Supported volunteer watercraft inspection program in Dickinson County
- Chemically treated 18 waterbodies with Eurasian watermilfoil or brittle naiad
- Surveyed vegetation in 63 waterbodies
- Posted signs at accesses of waterbodies infested with AIS
- Surveyed zebra mussels in Clear Lake and Rathbun Lake
- Placed zebra mussel veliger settlement samplers in 25 lakes and reservoirs statewide

- Sampled water for zebra mussel veligers in Clear Lake, Rathbun Lake, the Mississippi, Wapsipinicon, Maquoketa, Cedar, Iowa, Shell Rock, Des Moines, and Little Sioux Rivers, and Milford Creek
- Documented Asian carp in tributaries and lakes within the Little Sioux River Basin as a result of Missouri River flooding
- Supported Iowa State University study of Clear L
- Purchased equipment for DNR Fisheries management stations to prevent the spread of AIS during operations

**Aquatic Invasive Species Program Personnel and Activities**

A Natural Resources Biologist has coordinated the DNR-AIS since 2000, and a permanent, full-time Natural Resources Technician was added in October 2006. During the summer of 2011, 3 Natural Resources Aides conducted watercraft inspections and 2 Natural Resources Aides surveyed waterbodies for AIS across the state. That was a decrease from 16 Natural Resources Aides and 3 Water Patrol Officers conducting inspections in 2010 and resembled staffing prior to the summer of 2007 when the DNR-AIS only hired 2-3 seasonal employees who split their time between watercraft inspections and AIS surveys. Six Student Conservation Association interns supported by a Dickinson Clean Water Alliance Grant and the Okoboji Protective Association assisted with watercraft inspections 3 days per week in Dickinson County in 2011. Watercraft inspectors discussed inspecting watercraft for AIS with operators from May through September 2011. They collected information on AIS presence and location, watercraft type and state of registration, number of people, last and next waterbody visited, and operator familiarity with Eurasian watermilfoil, brittle naiad, zebra mussels, Asian carp, and Iowa’s AIS law. Trailer stickers reminding boaters to prevent the spread of AIS were given to each operator after inspection. The table below summarizes the watercraft inspection effort of the DNR-AIS prior to receiving boat registration funds (2006), during full staffing (2010), and in 2011.

**Table 6**

<b>Watercraft Inspection Efforts</b>			
	2006	2010	2011
Seasonal Employees	3 PT	19 FT	3 FT, 6 PT
Watercraft Inspected	791	7,314	3,644
Personal Contacts	2,350	21,076	9,714
Waterbodies	16	71	16

DNR-AIS staff supported several partnerships and working groups in FY11:

- Aquatic Nuisance Species (ANS) Task Force
- Mississippi River Basin Panel on ANS
- Missouri River ANS Work Group
- Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA) Invasive Species Committee (Vice Chair)
- AFWA Biofuels Work Group
- National Invasive Species Awareness Week (Steering Committee Member)
- Management and Control Plan for Asian Carps in the United States Implementation Team
- Midwest Invasive Plant Network
- Upper Midwest Invasive Species Conference (Planning Committee Member)

- Midwest Fish and Wildlife Conference (Arrangements Chair, Symposium Co-Sponsor)
- Mississippi River Mussel Coordination Team
- Iowa Wildlife Action Plan Wildlife Adaptive Management Work Group
- Iowa DNR Climate Change Strategic Plan Steering Committee
- Iowa DNR Farm Bill Working Group
- Iowa DNR Diversity Action Taskforce
- Iowa Chapter of the American Fisheries Society (President Elect)
- Women's Conservation Learning Circles

During the summer of 2011, the DNR-AIS again partnered with the Iowa Great Lakes Water Safety Council and the lake protective associations on a volunteer watercraft inspection program. The program was designed to supplement efforts of DNR seasonal staff who conduct watercraft inspections at boat ramps on Dickinson County lakes. The DNR-AIS provided training and supplies for the volunteers. Iowa Lakeside Laboratory appointed a coordinator for volunteers to contact to schedule their times and locations. The number of volunteers has declined annually since the program began in 2008.

### **Aquatic Invasive Species Outreach Materials**

The DNR-AIS has different types of outreach materials targeting boaters and anglers in Iowa. In addition to signs posted at all boat access sites and information on the Iowa DNR website, the following informational materials were distributed during watercraft inspections, to all Iowa DNR Fisheries regional and field offices, during the Iowa State Fair, at state and county parks and nature centers, at businesses (e.g., marinas, bait shops, sporting good stores), and at presentations and field days.

- Help Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers brochure
- Zap the Zebra brochure
- AIS identification cards
- Keep a Lookout for New Invasive Aquatic Plants in the Midwest flyer
- Don't Dump Your Bait posters
- 2011 Iowa Fishing Regulations booklet
- Handbook of Iowa Boating Laws and Responsibilities
- Stop Aquatic Hitchhikers tattoos, koozies, sun kits
- Spirit Lake, East Okoboji, West Okoboji boaters' maps with car wash locations

The DNR-AIS also provided information through 14 billboards posted along interstate and state highways near high-use and infested waterbodies in Iowa. The DNR-AIS has increased the number of billboards it has leased annually since 2007. Banners with one of the billboard images were displayed near boat ramps in areas of the state without billboards and at outdoor events.

Exhibits at the 2011 Iowa State Fair included a banner, live Asian carp, and Eurasian watermilfoil, brittle naiad, and zebra mussel specimens.

Statewide audiences were targeted with news releases regarding new AIS discoveries in Iowa, volunteer opportunities within the Iowa DNR, and before the Memorial Day and July 4<sup>th</sup> holidays. DNR-AIS staff were also interviewed for radio programs, television

stories, and newspaper articles regarding AIS identification and prevention and participated in several fishing and outdoor events.

DNR-AIS staff gave presentations about AIS in a variety of settings in FY11, including:

- Iowa DNR Fisheries Natural Resource Aides Training
- Student Conservation Association Interns Training
- Iowa Great Lakes Water Volunteer Training
- Iowa Chapter of the American Fisheries Society Plant Identification Workshop
- Nebraska AIS Symposium
- ISU Department of Agriculture Career Fair
- National Invasive Species Awareness Week Aquatic Nuisance Species Panel
- Sweet Marsh Management Public Meeting
- ISU Women in Science and Engineering Job Shadow Day
- Iowa State University Student Chapter of the American Fisheries Society Meeting
- Taking the Road Less Traveled: A Career Conference for Girls
- Outdoor Journey for Girls Workshop
- ISU Natural Resources Ecology and Management Outdoor Skills Weekend
- Conservation Leaders for Tomorrow Workshop
- Boone High School Career Fair

Data collected during watercraft inspections indicates that public awareness of AIS in Iowa has increased as a result of DNR-AIS outreach activities. Fifty-one percent of boaters interviewed in 2001 said that they were familiar with invasive species. By 2009, that number had increased to 80% statewide and was 82% in 2011. Northwest Iowa has more intensive public outreach efforts compared to other regions in Iowa, and 92% of the boaters interviewed there in 2011 were aware of invasive species.

### **Aquatic Invasive Species Management and Monitoring**

DNR Fisheries staff cooperated with DNR-AIS staff to chemically treat 18 Eurasian watermilfoil (EWM) and brittle naiad (BN) infestations in 2011.

- Rudd Lake (Floyd County), EWM
- Casey Lake (Tama County), BN
- Crawford Creek Lake (Ida County), BN
- Eldred Sherwood Lake (Hancock County), BN
- Great Western Pond (Carroll County), BN
- Grundy County Lake (Grundy County), BN
- Hannen Lake (Benton County), BN
- Koutny Pond (Buchanan County), BN
- Lake Hendricks (Howard County), BN
- Lake MacBride (Johnson County), BN
- Mile Hill Lake (Mills County), BN
- Moorehead Park Pond (Ida County), BN
- Morris Park Pond (Lucas County), BN
- Nelson Park Lake (Crawford County), BN
- Plainfield Lake (Bremer County), BN
- Rodgers Lake (Benton County), BN
- Willow Lake (Harrison County), BN
- Yellow Smoke Lake (Crawford County), BN



Natural Resource Aides surveyed aquatic vegetation in 63 Iowa waterbodies in June, July, August, and September 2011 to monitor for new AIS infestations. Species lists and aquatic vegetation maps were completed for each waterbody surveyed. Fisheries and wildlife biologists and county conservation board staff also monitored aquatic vegetation in their areas during management activities. Three new infestations of brittle naiad and one new infestations of Eurasian watermilfoil were discovered in Iowa in 2011.

- Izaak Walton League Pond (Carroll County), BN
- Sand Lake (Marshall County), BN
- South Gateway Pit (Iowa County), BN
- Murray Pond (Delaware County), EWM

Signs are posted at all AIS-infested waterbodies alerting the public about the species present and how to prevent its spread. Eurasian watermilfoil has been identified in 43 waterbodies, including private ponds, in Iowa since 1993, and brittle naiad has been identified in 46 waterbodies since 2003.



Iowa has two interior lakes with known infestations of zebra mussels: Clear Lake (Cerro Gordo County) and Rathbun Lake (Appanoose County). Lake Delhi (Delaware County) was infested with zebra mussels before the dam failed in 2010 and eliminated the former lake on the Maquoketa River. No zebra

mussels were observed in the river channel within the former lake in 2011. Zebra mussel veligers have been sampled in the Maquoketa River below Lake Delhi since 2007. When analyzed, samples taken in 2011 will help determine if there is a surviving population of zebra mussels within the Maquoketa River.

Zebra mussels were first discovered in Clear Lake in 2005. DNR-AIS and DNR Fisheries staff have surveyed zebra mussel densities in Clear Lake each summer since 2006 by counting individuals attached to rock substrate. Again in 2011, over 95% of the rocks had attached zebra mussels, and zebra mussels were colonizing on each other and on aquatic plants. Zebra mussel densities ranged from 0-101 adults and 0-78 juveniles per square inch throughout the summer of 2011. In comparison, a total of 12 zebra mussels were found during the same survey in 2006. A water sample collected during the June 2011 survey had 50 zebra mussel veligers per quart of water. Settlement samplers placed in the lake also help determine zebra mussel population size and distribution.

In October 2007, zebra mussels were discovered on a boat that had been transported from the Mississippi River and moored at a marina on Rathbun Lake since late June. DNR-AIS and DNR Fisheries staff found no zebra mussels in the lake at that time. Staff have conducted dive surveys annually since 2008 and have found no zebra mussels in the marina or surrounding areas although fluctuating water levels have hampered the surveys. Additionally, no zebra mussels have been observed on veliger settlement samplers placed

in Rathbun Lake each summer since 2008. Very low numbers of veligers (up to 1 per quart) were collected, however, in water samples collected from May through September 2011. Monitoring will continue to determine if an adult population is established in the lake.

DNR-AIS and DNR Fisheries staff placed 77 zebra mussel veliger settlement samplers in 25 lakes and reservoirs in Iowa in 2011 to monitor for early detection of zebra mussels. Lakes with samplers included Big Creek Lake (Polk County), Black Hawk Lake (Sac County), Coralville Lake (Johnson County), East Okoboji Lake (Dickinson County), Hickory Grove Lake (Story County), Lake Hendricks (Howard County), Lake Macbride (Johnson County), Pleasant Creek Lake (Linn County), Saylorville Lake (Polk County), Spirit Lake (Dickinson County), Storm Lake (Buena Vista County), West Okoboji Lake (Dickinson County), and lakes in the Cedar River floodplain (Bremer, Blackhawk, Linn Counties). No zebra mussels were attached to any of the samplers.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Minnesota DNR, Wisconsin DNR, Iowa DNR and National Park Service staff collected zebra mussel veliger samples from the Upper Mississippi River and selected tributaries during July and August 2011 to monitor trends in abundance and peak veliger production. In Iowa, DNR staff collected samples below Lock and Dam 10 through 18 and from the Maquoketa, Wapsipinicon, Iowa, and Cedar Rivers. Similar to the Maquoketa River, the Cedar River has the influence of Clear Lake on its zebra mussel population. During high water, the outlet of Clear Lake flows into Willow Creek and then to the Winnebago River, Shell Rock, and Cedar Rivers. Low densities of veligers were found in samples from each of those rivers in 2010. It is unknown if the veligers came from Clear Lake, or if there are adult populations within these rivers. Two surveys for adult zebra mussels on the Cedar and Shell Rock Rivers in 2011 yielded no samples. Veliger sample analysis is not complete for 2011.

Bighead carp have been reported throughout the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers and in large and small tributaries of both in southern and central Iowa for the past 10 years. Prior to 2011, silver carp had only been found in the Missouri River, Big Sioux River, Mississippi River, Des Moines River as far upstream as the Lake Red Rock dam, and Chariton River below Lake Rathbun. The major flooding along the Missouri River in 2011 allowed both bighead and silver carp to expand their range into the Little Sioux River and its tributaries. Bighead and/or silver carp were also collected from 4 natural lakes in the Little Sioux River watershed during the fall of 2011. Normal water levels have trapped any Asian carp remaining in the lakes. DNR staff and commercial fishermen plan to try to monitor Asian carp abundance in the lakes and evaluate any long-term changes.



In FY11, the DNR-AIS purchased 32 fyke nets for four DNR fisheries management and research stations with known AIS infestations within their districts. These nets provide a second set of sampling gear for field crews so one set can be cleaned and dried completely before being used in another waterbody. The DNR-AIS also purchased filters for DNR fish hatcheries on the Mississippi River and Rathbun Lake to help eliminate zebra mussels and veligers from hatchery ponds and from water loaded into distribution trucks.

**Table 7**

<b>Aquatic Invasive Species Expenditures</b>		
	<b>FY06</b>	<b>FY11</b>
Personnel	\$85,234	\$264,986
Travel Expenses	\$4,915	\$16,965
State Vehicle Operation	\$3,281	\$19,114
Office Supplies	\$399	\$794
Facility Maintenance Supplies	\$26	\$2,184
Equipment Maintenance Supplies	\$2,936	\$3,820
Ag Supplies	\$42,751	\$58,688
Other Supplies	\$100	\$3,735
Printing	\$477	\$4,860
Uniforms	\$455	\$327
Postage	\$536	\$248
Communications	\$651	\$723
Rentals	\$0	\$0
Professional Services	\$0	\$4,838
Outside Services	\$595	\$2,210
Advertising/Publishing	\$11,390	\$38,777
Reimbursement	\$0	\$24
Equipment	\$1,042	\$30,890
Indirects	\$9,768	\$36,325
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$164,556</b>	<b>\$489,508</b>

## **BOATING NAVIGATION ENFORCEMENT AND WATER SAFETY EXPENDITURES**

### **Conservation Officer Activities**

During the summer months, Conservation Officers around the state use a variety of enforcement techniques to keep our waterways safe for all ages.

Several group enforcement efforts on Iowa's 19,000 miles of interior rivers are conducted annually and known as river sweeps. This technique allows officers to start at a specific point and continue downstream contacting all recreationalists and educating everyone regarding all aspects of navigation.

### **BWI Enforcement**



Boating While Intoxicated (BWI) enforcement is a continual focus every year for Officers. Iowa participated in "Operation Dry Water" on June 24-26, 2011, a National campaign that saturated the waterways and airwaves with heightened enforcement and information on the effects and dangers of boating and drinking.

More than 50 Officers participated in this three day event, contacting 799 boaters, performing safety equipment checks on 209 vessels and issuing 45 citations/warnings. Throughout the summer, a total of 46 BWI arrests were made by various Officers, working on additional coordinated BWI enforcement projects.

### **Flooding Across Iowa**

Conservation Officers spent over 2,248 hours helping with flood duties on the Missouri River and patrolled from Hamburg through Missouri Valley. Some of the duties included levee watching, sandbagging, welfare checks, transporting electrical linemen by boat in order to shut off power, and relocating museum artifacts out of the Bertram museum. Officers also partnered with County Deputies to ensure a continual law enforcement presence in the closed flooded areas. The Officers worked very closely with Emergency Managers in Fremont, Pottawattamie, Mills and Harrison Counties on the constant planning, potential evacuation, and various strategies for the area. The Council Bluffs Police/Fire Department provided additional manpower and assessed the area with photographic documentation. The



magnitude of the flooding dictated that Conservation Officers would live in trailers on site, until the sense of urgency diminished. The living quarters were set up in County parks and at Waubonsie State Park. The flood dynamics of 2011 also enabled the IDNR and the National Guard a practice training opportunity for rescuing flood victims.

### Water Safety Contacts

Even though the flooding took care of most of the boating season on the Missouri River, officers still spent time doing navigation enforcement, safety programs and water projects across the state.

Officers provided over one hundred fifty nine (159) programs to students talking about the importance of wearing life jackets when on and near the water. The various programs include boater education, life jacket safety, and waterfowl hunting which includes a lifejacket component, water safety, and mentored waterfowl. Approximately nine hundred students were able to participate in these programs



**Table 8**

<b>Law Enforcement Boating Activities</b>	
Calendar Year*	Totals
<b>2006</b>	
Navigation Contacts	40,033
Navigation Citations	1,941
Special Events Patrolled	908
Accident Investigations	60
Boat Iowa Classes Taught	57
Boater Education Hours	3,150
Navigation Enforcement Hours	31,349
<b>2011</b>	
Navigation Contacts	26,692
Navigation Citations	1,584
Special Events Patrolled	200
Accident Investigations	38
Boat Iowa Classes Taught	18
Boater Education Hours	3,155
Navigation Enforcement Hours	32,053

\*Law Enforcement Boating Activities are tabulated on a calendar year while the remainder of this report is based on a Fiscal year.

### **Full-Time Conservation Officers**

Full- time conservation officers spend twenty three percent of their time working on navigation related activities. The chart below lists navigation, boating and aquatic invasive species-related coded expenditures of full time officers.

**Table 9**

<b>Expenditures for Full-Time Officers</b>		
	<b>FY06</b>	<b>FY 11</b>
Personnel	*\$1,366,842	\$1,405,564
Officer Retirements	\$73,986	\$0
Vehicle Depreciation	\$240,916	\$268,661
In State Travel	\$54,495	\$46,746
Communications	\$30,509	\$32,413
Indirects	\$204,974	\$248,444
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$1,971,722</b>	<b>\$2,001,828</b>

\*WPO base costs are included in year FY06. WPO increases are tracked separately in subsequent years in Table 11.

**Seasonal Water Patrol Officers (WPO) Program**



The Department receives approximately 100 applications each year from potential candidates wanting to work for the Iowa DNR and be a part of the seasonal water patrol officer (WPO) program. The WPO program has been in effect since the 1980s and allows individuals the opportunity to experience working for the Law Enforcement Bureau while performing on-the-water education and navigation enforcement for Iowa’s waterways.

The seasonal water patrol officers, serve as a “force multiplier” by assisting full time officers in the enforcement of all fishing and navigation activities across Iowa. The Department is also able to hire quality candidates from the program as full time officers. Currently almost half of our Conservation Officers started their careers as seasonal water patrol officers. In fiscal year 09, the average cost per WPO was determined. Starting in July 1, 2009, meal expenses were disallowed for WPOs. Table 11 shows the average cost per WPO in fiscal year 2011 as compared to the base year.

**Table 10**

<b>Water Patrol Officer Expenditures Over Base Year</b>			
	<b>FY05 Base Year</b>	<b>*FY06 Additional WPOs Over Base Year</b>	<b>FY 11 Additional WPO’s</b>
WPOs	22	7	12
Salary		\$51,422	\$12,050
Equipment		\$1,844	
Meals & Lodging		\$6,369	
Training		\$2,917	
Fuel		\$31,838	
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$94,390</b>	<b>\$144,600</b>

\* In May of 2006, the Department started 7 seasonal Water Patrol Officers in anticipation of the fee increase. Those 7 seasonal costs are counted as the FY07 increase over base in Table 3.

## **DNR Patrol Boats**

The Law Enforcement Bureau divides the state into 5 districts and employs District Supervisors to manage each area. The supervisors determine specific needs when purchasing large patrol boats based on recreational opportunities, Water Patrol Officers and Law Enforcement Officers available in each district. The patrol boat models purchased vary greatly by make, size, functionality, and cost, based on the need of the district, in order to provide quality navigation enforcement and boating education in each area. Officers use several different types of vessels for navigation enforcement and boating education.

The Department currently has approximately 36 large patrol boats used for navigation enforcement and boating education on Iowa's waterways. The additional revenues continue to enable these vessels to be replaced generally on a 3-5 year maximum schedule.

In Fiscal Year 2011 the Department did not purchase any large patrol boats but smaller boats were purchased for enforcement purposes out of Marine Fuel Tax Funding.

## **Boater Education**

A Boating Education Coordinator was hired after the registration fee increase. Prior to the increase, the Department was unable to provide the staff and attention needed to advance the education program. The DNR relied heavily on other organizations and a handful of employees with a passion for boater education to deliver the program.



The Iowa DNR is now proactive regarding boater education, instead of playing catch up on important trends and safety issues.

**Table 11**

<b>Boater Education Expenditures</b>		
	<b>FY2006</b>	<b>FY 2011</b>
Salary (Boater Education Coordinator)	\$0	\$85,658
State Vehicle Operation & Depreciation	\$0	\$2,137
Internet Fees	\$0	\$13
Replacement Computer		\$0
Office Supplies		\$589
“Kids Fest” Promotion		\$0
“Wear It Iowa” Promotion		\$663



“Be Dam Safe” Promotion		\$0
Ice Thickness Cards		\$0
Brochures	\$0	\$5,270
Educational DVDs		\$0
Clothing Allowance	\$0	\$289
Travel Expenses	\$0	\$1,439
Novelty Items With Boater Education Messages	\$0	\$19,936
Incentive Awards For Volunteer Instructors	\$0	\$5,350
LCD Projectors	\$0	\$0
Life Jackets*		\$777
.08 BWI Campaign		\$50,136
Outdoor Expo		\$7,179
Boating Safety TV PSA’s		\$15,290
“Don’t Flush Your Life Away” promotion		\$2,067
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>196,793</b>

\*The life jackets purchased in FY 11 are represented under Lifejackets.



Nationally, Boating Law Administrators and Education Coordinators focus on helping boaters understand and realize the importance of wearing life jackets. The Iowa legislature, after 5 years of effort, passed a child safety law in 2008 requiring children under 13 to wear a PFD in a moving vessel.

In FY11 the education program continued to focus on the importance of wearing life jackets and repainted the boat ramps in Iowa’s State Parks. The “Life Jacket Zone” message reminds boaters about the importance of

wearing a life jacket while on the water. The IDNR partnered with Kaplan University who provided student interns to assist with painting the 4’ x 4’ bright yellow and black stencil on over 40 boat ramps located in the parks.

In FY 11, the education program was not able to partner with Iowa Health Systems for the 'I Got Caught' program. Efforts are still being made to locate another vendor in order to reestablish the program.



The Boater Education program partnered with Honey Creek Resort and implemented a “life jacket” loaner program. The focus of the program was to make available a variety of life jackets to the public at no cost. The sizes of life jackets available to borrow ranged from adult sizes all the way down to infant. If a boater found they were at the lake without enough life jackets or the proper size of life jacket for each person on-board, they only had to leave proof of identification to borrow one for the

day. Over seven hundred thirty five lifejackets were loaned out to the public during the first year of implementation. The Education program will continue to seek out additional pilot locations for the “life jacket loaner” program!

In preparation for the change in the boating while intoxicated law which went into effect July 1, 2011, the IDNR launched a media campaign titled .08 Don't Go Overboard. The campaign included TV public service announcements, a joint press conference with the Iowa State Patrol, live radio spots broadcasted at Coralville and Okoboji, posters, brochures, radio public service announcements, and give away items. The campaign was very successful in educating the public on the dangers of drinking and boating and also letting them know that the blood alcohol content (BAC) level for drinking and boating is now the same level as for operating a vehicle. The “Boating While Intoxicated” campaign will continue to grow in the future as we make the waters of Iowa safer for everyone.



**Table 12**

<b>Boater Education Certificates</b>		
<b>Year</b>	<b>Students Certified</b>	<b># of Classes</b>
1999	681	14
2000	629	31
2001	349	13
2002	462	15
2003	1,711	19
2004	1,468	20
2005	1,088	22
2006	545	17
2007	2,298	29
2008	1,964	38
2009	1,642	79
2010	1,235	20
2011	1232	18

## WATER TRAILS AND LOW-HEAD DAM PUBLIC HAZARD PROGRAM EXPENDITURES

The Iowa DNR water trails and low-head dam public hazard program works statewide to ensure improved navigational safety on waterways throughout Iowa. Water safety education, establishment of a river mileage-based signage system and a hazard warning signage system, development of navigational maps, and advising placements and designs for water accesses and portage trails around dangerous dams are all components of the program mission.



Dozens of water trail construction projects, dam mitigations, and water trail designations unfolded in fiscal year 2011. These project incorporated new techniques developed under statewide plans. Iowa DNR water trails and low-head dam public hazard programs are administered by the DNR rivers team under the Land and Waters Bureau. Navigation and water safety activities include:

- Worked with Sunny Brae Golf Course to develop a temporary navigational obstruction permit for a floating bridge, per direction of the Natural Resources Commission, and advising the board on possible alternatives such as replacing the floating structure with a historic bridge.
- Plans, administers funds for, and places navigational signage, including mileage-based access numbers at landings, roadway signage leading people to boat accesses, dam warning signage, etc. via the water trails program.
- Plans, designs, and maintains warning signage and portage trails at DNR-owned low-head dams.

- Works with communities to install dam warning signage where dams have led to fatalities for recreational users. ALL users are considered, including anglers walking in, and signs designed of size to be comprehended at high speeds in high-motor use areas such as downtown Des Moines.
- Requires water trail developers to place, maintain, and update dam warning signage.
- Purchases and distributes educational flyers on canoe and kayak safety, low-head dam safety, participate in “Wear It” campaign targeting canoes and kayakers with promotional items purchased under operations budget.
- Advises fisheries and county conservation staff on boating access improvements, including boat ramps and canoe launches.
- Trains county conservation, DNR, and children’s camp staff in safely leading and teaching during canoe outings using American Canoe Association curriculum and the Rivers’ team certified ACA instructors.
- Works to reduce hazards of low-head dams with high death rates through management of mitigation projects. Three river segments were reconnected and made safer for navigation including the Cedar River at Charles City.



The Iowa DNR and encourages local ownership of water trails throughout Iowa that support education, navigation, and recreation. Technical assistance is provided to communities working to find solutions at aging dams, and provides funds for mitigating dam problems, solving safety hazards, fish passage, upstream flooding, and failure-related issues.

The river programs team serves a growing segment of Iowans – canoeists and kayakers, as well as more traditional recreational segments, including anglers and power boaters. National statistics show that canoeists and kayakers have a higher rate of death per capita



compared to other boaters. Two brochures, “SmartStart for Safe Paddling” and “The Drowning Machine” continue to be disseminated to county recorders, boat rental facilities, paddling clubs,

local governments, and field staff. This fiscal year, the water trails program completed a Lower Cedar River map and guide, its ninth “Expedition and Fishing Guide” for whole river systems. These maps contain angling information, dam, and boat launch locations. Printing is paid for cooperatively with the fisheries bureau, and the brochure maps are being disseminated in cooperation with Iowa Welcome Centers, county conservation boards, state parks, and fish hatcheries.

## Project example: The Maquoketa River Water Trail – Addressing Law Enforcement Challenges to Improve Experiences for Iowans

**The problem:** , Public safety on the 7-mile segment of the Maquoketa River from Mon-Maq Dam to Pictured Rocks Park became tantamount as usage increased to more than 1,000 users per day on the weekends. In the summer of 2008, county and state officials conducted 37 river rescue and first response operations.

Landowners were concerned about litter on their land and the need to conduct rescues through their fields. Litter, public intoxication,

and operating while intoxicated after a trip became serious problems. Parking jam-ups and alcohol use led to conflicts, including assaults. The atmosphere became a barrier for many Iowans who otherwise would like to enjoy a highly scenic river. During the same timeframe, approaches and code for managing problems related to popular canoeing, kayaking, and innertubing river segments were written in the *Developing Water Trails in Iowa* manual, with significant input from law enforcement, state parks, and county officers who have encountered these types of issues.



**What was done:** The National Park Service was invited to conduct a series of sessions to listen to how community and neighbors viewed problems. Those initial ideas led to a series of ideas for physical changes and focused law enforcement, which were narrowed down with more public input. Solutions included redesigning the launch and landing and developing defined areas for people to park, walk, and to land canoes. Traffic flow was considered. Law enforcement efforts on the river and at the access were stepped up. A management plan included requiring concessionaire agreements – as required under Iowa Code Chapter 461A.4 – for all five liveries in Jones County. The agreements required liveries to find parking for their patrons at locations other than public accesses on summer weekends. Liveries also received and distributed mesh bags to patrons to reduce litter, and furnished dumpsters under the concessionaire agreements.

**Results:** Traffic bottlenecks, littering, rescues, and the need to write citations were reduced to manageable levels during the summer of 2011. Livery owners and conservation officials now have a more effective communication structure. Members of the public have expressed gratitude. People in the Jones County and surrounding counties have thanked the Conservation Board for “giving them their river back.” Seeing progress, landowners and other community members donated \$13,000 to help purchase a shallow water patrol and first response boat.

**Project example (continued): The Maquoketa River Water Trail – Addressing Law Enforcement Challenges to Improve Experiences for Iowans**

**Results (continued):**



Defined parking and circular traffic flow added space for people waiting for a shuttle ride to gather without being on roadways.



Accesses were constructed using donated cut stone to be accessible and with additional landing capacity. Flat stones lining sides create places for people to sit and place belongings out of the way. Increased law enforcement presence, primarily by county officials, resulted in changed behavior on the river and at the takeout.



## Plans completed

In 2008, the Iowa Legislature appropriated \$200,000 and instructed Iowa DNR to develop statewide plans for water trails and low-head dams via Iowa Code Chapter 464A. The effort was managed by Iowa DNR staff, with Iowa State University's landscape architecture program leading much of the work. The plan began with input from tens of thousands of Iowans. The three documents below were completed in 2010-2011.

### Water Trails Statewide Plan



Half of Iowa's population visited a river corridor in 2009. This plan serves those Iowans by developing vision, broad strategies, and action steps based on the input of key stakeholders and a broad array of citizens. It focuses on enhancing diverse experiences through a blend of improved access and interpretation. Recommendations include multi-sport recreation through pedal-paddle routes, experiencing Iowa's history through its rivers, encouraging wildlife watching, and helping Iowans embrace healthy and challenging on-water activities. Strategies are actively being implemented in order to provide the highest level of service with limited resources.

### Water Trails Development Manual



This companion manual guides local water trail developers from inception, through community engagement, to solid plans, and finally to construction and ongoing programming of a water trail. The "nuts and bolts" of a water trail includes infrastructure, signage, local people who care about their waterway, and ways to let other people know about it. Strategies for dealing with law enforcement problems that arise in heavily used river segments are included. Concept illustrations lead land managers toward durable accesses of appropriate scale for the activities being encouraged, along with ways to infiltrate storm water and planting native plants likely to survive.

### Low-head Dam Mitigation Plan



This plan focused on solutions to recreational safety hazards, biological constraints, flood issues, and structural associated with Iowa's 177 aging low-head dams (now 174, after recent mitigation projects). Surveys of the owners of dams, anglers, and the general population were used to target limited resources toward projects that most reduce problems while maximizing benefits.

## Staffing

The river programs coordinator is responsible for overall program direction, which in the current fiscal year involved statewide plan development, collaborating on river survey, assessment, and design work with DNR Engineering, and technical assistance provided to external dam owners. A construction technician continues to plan, develop, and maintain warning signage plans and portage trails, including launches and landings, around these dams. The construction technician also advises other communities on similar projects. A seasonal helped conduct river assessment field work and coordinate water trail designations. Half of one FTE's time focuses on leading river survey and assessment work at low-head dams. The other half of this position focuses on the Protected Water Areas program, a land conservation program along rivers, and is not within the purview of this report.

Iowa DNR owns or manages seven major low-head dams on navigable streams. River programs staff updated signage plans according to the new hazard signage manual, installed signs, and maintain portages at these dams in FY2011.

**Table 13**

<b>Expenditures for Water Trails &amp; Dam Safety</b>		
	<b>FY06</b>	<b>FY11</b>
Personnel	\$7,572	\$144,837
Travel Expenses	\$1,038	\$2,496
State Vehicle Operation & Depreciation		\$8,314
Office Supplies & IT Hardware		\$2,477
Facility Maintenance Supplies		\$6,704
Equipment Maintenance Supplies		\$1,296
Other Supply (training programs equipment, safety education & outreach materials)		\$5,785
Print and binding	\$1,800	\$575
Uniforms		\$249
Postage		\$5
Communications		\$3,009
Rentals		\$370
Outside services		\$2,186
Reimbursement & ITS Reimbursement		\$749
Equipment Inventoriable		\$413
Equipment Non Inventoriable		\$0
Indirects		\$21,580
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$10,410</b>	<b>\$201,044</b>

### **Paddlesports safety**

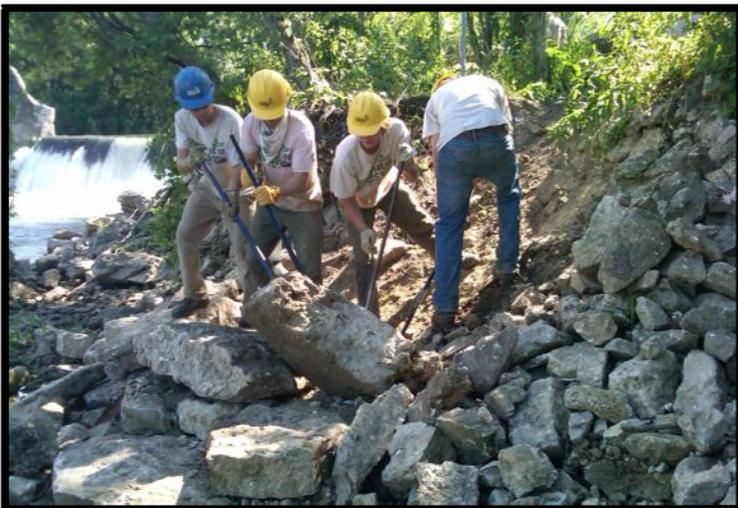
The Rivers team offered five two-day canoe schools and one kayak school for trip leaders, naturalists and other agency staff to “train the trainers.” This skills course responds to a



need identified by agencies with canoe fleets that take groups on lakes and river. It provides consistent training for leading safe tours, developing risk management plans, and demonstrating appropriate canoeing skills. DNR rivers team staff also received American Canoe Association training from instructor trainers to update training credentials. The national “Wear It” campaign was supported at the State Fair and at events throughout the year, including distributions of promotional stickers.

### **Water trails conservation crew**

The rivers team manages projects that are developed and constructed by the water trails conservation crew, under contract with Conservation Corps, Iowa. The \$210,000, 2-year contract was funded under non-trust infrastructure revenues (RIIF). The water trails conservation crew works statewide and often camps at the sites where they work. They often work in remote area where typical contractors could not. They construct portage trails and accesses, cut through log jams, and mount important navigational and warning signage in diverse settings.



## Dam mitigation

Iowa DNR River program staff works with dam owners to retire or mitigate a variety of problems when a dam has safety hazard issues. Oftentimes, federal funding is available for projects that involve fish passage, so a natural development is to solve multiple problems in a single project.

### **Yellow River Ford / Dam Removal**

**Problems:** Increasing use from upstream livery and campground businesses resulting in reports of near-miss safety instances, including kayakers being sucked through culvert tubes against their will. At high flow, structure forms a “roller” hydraulic like a typical low-head dam on a popular section of the Yellow River, a water trail under development.



**What was done:** The private landowner received technical / design assistance to replace the existing structure with a below-river crossing, as well as a \$34,750 Low-Head Dam Public Hazard (revenue source: RIIF) grant to hire contractors for project construction. The grant was matched dollar for dollar by the landowner. Riverbank and channel restoration more than 50 species of native trees, shrubs, grasses, sedges, and forbs planted and sewn by the water trails conservation crew.

**Results:** Recreational safety, aesthetics, the habitat corridor, on this highly scenic and popular section of the Yellow River, a water trail under active development. As plantings mature, a diverse riparian buffer will improve scenery in the area.



## Charles City Whitewater Park

**Problems:** A “roller” hydraulic at this low-head dam had a record of deaths. Dam structure was cracked. Fish passage to upstream area was cut off. Angling was focused at a single spot, and banks were inaccessible in downtown Charles City.



**What was done:** Charles City demolished part of the dam to construct a whitewater park with three main rapids and re-shaped the downtown riverbanks to become more accessible and aesthetically pleasing. The project was supported by \$378,120 in Low-Head Dam Public Hazard grants (revenue sources: RIIF, IJOBS).

**Results:** Recreational use has increased, creating related business opportunities. The facility has generated overnight stays at hotels and a local campground and a carwash began renting out innertubes and running out of them. Out of state kayakers now make Charles City a destination. Angling blogs and media have positive reports about the area; anglers have been able to spread out to various spots with better access in more places and fish habitat upstream of the former dam site is more spread and successful.



## Vernon Springs Dam to Rapids Conversion

**Problem:** A “roller” hydraulic at this low-head dam had a record of deaths, including power boaters. Dam structure had been damaged in 2008 floods. Fish passage to upstream area was cut off. Angling was focused at a single spot, and access was difficult.



**What was done:** A rock-arch rapids was constructed on the downstream face of the dam, eliminating the former dangerous condition and allowing fish to access the north and south branches of the Turkey River upstream of the Vernon Springs Mill Pond. This project used \$128,279 of Low-head Dam Public Hazard funding (revenue sources: RIIF, IJOBS).

**Results:** Local people are walking, wading and fishing areas where this did not occur before. Safety hazard was eliminated.



**Program outlook**

Statewide plans have resulted in a more sensible local planning framework for water trails and low-head dams. For local entities, this will result in lower-maintenance projects with increased local ownership in water trails. Statewide, this will result in a more robust and easy-to-understand navigational system. As numbers of recreational users increase, increasing focus on managing the experiences for all Iowans – from young to old – will become more important than ever. Training programs focusing on trained individuals leading programs, safe livery operations, and increasing availability of American Canoe Association courses offered throughout the state will also be important responses to increasing interest in river recreation.

**Table 14**

<b>Local Water Trails, Snapshot as of June 30, 2011</b>	
<b>Designated</b>	<b>Under Development</b>
Boone River WT (Hamilton)	Cedar River WT (Blackhawk)
Cedar Valley Paddlers Trail (Blackhawk)	Grand River WT (Decatur)
Des Moines River WT (Boone)	Lizard Creek WT (Webster)
Des Moines River WT (Polk)	Maquoketa River WT (Jackson)
Des Moines River WT (Webster)	North Skunk River WT (Jasper)
Iowa River WT (Hardin)	Turkey River WT (Clayton)
Iowa River WT (Johnson)	Turkey River WT (Fayette)
Iowa River WT (Louisa)	Upper Iowa River WT (Allamakee)
Lower Des Moines River WT (Van Buren)	Upper Iowa River WT (Howard)
Maquoketa River WT (Jones)	Upper Iowa River WT (Winnebago)
Middle/South River WT (Dallas)	West Fork Des Moines River WT (Emmet)
Middle/South River WT (Guthrie)	Yellow River WT (Allamakee)
North Raccoon River WT (Calhoun)	Maquoketa River WT (Manchester area)
North Raccoon River WT (Carroll)	
North Raccoon River WT (Dallas)	
North Raccoon River WT (Greene)	
North Raccoon River WT (Sac)	
Odessa WT (Louisa)	
Wapsipinicon River WT (Buchanan)	
Wapsipinicon River WT (Clinton)	
West Nishnabotna River WT (Pottawattamie County)	

Hazard mitigation via removal or modification at several dams, including the lower dam in Charles City, the Vernon Springs Dam on the Turkey River, a dam/crossing on the Yellow River, the Klondike Dam in Lyon County, and the River Valley Park Dam in Ames, are all expected to either be removed and/or converted to rapids in 2010-2011. The statewide plan for low-head dams will be released in the winter of 2010.

Before providing additional funds or other resources are committed for new water trails, action steps for 1) implementing the new statewide plan guidelines for signage and other water trail elements and 2) prioritizing future water trails, will be the initial focus.

**Table 15**

<b>Water Trails and Dam Safety At A Glance</b>		
	<b>2006</b>	<b>2010</b>
Total number of individual water trails with state designation, to date	0	17
Miles of water trails designated	0	638
Number of low-head dams with standard warning signage, to date	2	38
Dam-related deaths, calendar year	2	2
Number of maintained portage trails around low-head dams completed, to date	2	30
Number of low-head dams modified or removed for safety purposes, to date	0	4

In addition to the 638 miles of state-designated water trails, the program staff are working with local communities on 846 miles of additional water trails under active development in 25 counties. The program has focused on implementing statewide plans in both designated and future water trails, which includes updating to a comprehensive navigational signage system based on river mileage. This solves jurisdictional issues as well as simplifies highway signage.

## BOATING RECREATION INFRASTRUCTURE MAINTENANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The Iowa DNR owns or manages infrastructure for boating recreation across the state. *This infrastructure is integral to safe boating and access to the waters.*



The Law Enforcement Bureau and the Fisheries Bureau do not typically manage land and do not have the staff for this type of maintenance and management. The Wildlife Bureau staff manages and maintains state fishing access areas, boat ramps and docks in cooperation with other bureaus. See the attached Addendum A for the listing of the safe boating access areas managed by the Wildlife Bureau staff. Boating populations, including paddlers, have increased over the years and there is an ever-growing demand for safe, convenient and appropriate boating access areas.

These areas are heavily used for access 9 months of the year, or even more depending on the weather. They require frequent maintenance, especially since most are along river corridors in flood plains. Maintenance and management includes re-rocking areas, cleaning silt from the boat ramps, custodial functions such as removing trash and debris and maintaining signage. In addition to the staff time of the actual work, drive time and driving expenses are included, as Wildlife Headquarters cover 4-6 counties and the areas are remote.

The attached listing of areas represents 182 accesses that qualify for federal boat access funds. There is a detailed federal process to obtain the funds through a formula, and rigorous federal audits on those funds to make sure the boat fees and federal funds are used for the purpose of maintaining safe boat access areas. There are between one and four access ramps for each of the sites that require maintenance. The total cost per access averages out to less than \$5,000 a year in maintenance. The cost of this program is leveraged **75% federal** with 25% boat registration fees.

**Table 16**

Boat Fee Expenditures for Boating Infrastructure Maintenance & Management (Salaries for labor, contracted services, equipment, signage, publications, etc.)			
	Federal	Boat Fees	Total
FY06 (base year)	\$562,055	\$187,351	\$749,406
FY11	\$708,905	\$236,302	\$945,207

**NOTE: These federal funds can only be used for this purpose, and would be forfeit if not matched by boat fees.**

## IOWA'S MARINE FUEL TAX (MFT) PROGRAM



The Iowa DNR Marine Fuel Tax program is not directly tied to the boat fee revenues and expenditures, but it is a complimentary program. MFT has played a vital role in providing recreational boaters new opportunities as well as maintaining public lakes used by boaters.

- **Revenue from the excise tax on the sale of motor fuel used in watercraft**  
The amount of revenue generated by the marine fuel tax legislation equals nine-tenths of one percent of the state excise tax on gas, minus 3% of the marine fuel tax total for administrative costs and minus the amount refunded to commercial fishers based on the gallons of fuel they used.
- **MFT funds are leveraged with a variety of sources including Federal Coast Guard, Corps of Engineers Section 1135, State of Iowa Parks and Institutional Roads Fund, and local city and county conservation funds.**
- **Annual MFT funding historically ranges from \$2.2 to \$2.7 million.** Funds are often “carried forward”, as they are connected with construction projects that might take multiple years to complete.
- **MFT funds are appropriated to the DNR to support and enhance recreational boating. Funded projects may include but are not limited to:**
  1. Dredging and renovation of lakes of this state.
  2. Acquisition, development, and maintenance of access to public boating waters.
  3. Development and maintenance of boating facilities and navigation aids.
  4. Administration, operation, and maintenance of recreational boating activities.
  5. Acquisition, development, and maintenance of recreational facilities associated with recreational boating.
- **Examples of MFT projects:**
  - ◆ Law Enforcement and State Parks boat purchases (various counties)
  - ◆ Honey Creek Resort (Appanoose Co.) marina and boat ramp
  - ◆ Boat ramp restroom installations (various counties)
- **DNR Water Recreation Access Cost-Share Program**
  - ◆ Around \$100,000 of MFT funds are available in the form of grants to local cities and counties for boat access facilities to lakes and streams.
  - ◆ Projects are funded 75% state to 25% local match
  - ◆ DNR receives grant requests for 15 to 30 projects and awards amounts usually between \$2,000 and \$50,000

Addendum B is the FY 2011 MFT expense report.

**Addendum A--Wildlife Bureau Management and  
Maintenance of Boating Accesses Areas**

Badger Creek Recreation Area 1
Badger Creek Recreation Area 2
Badger Lake
Barringer Slough Wildlife Area
Bartlett Access
Bel Aire Access & Outlet
Big Sioux River Complex
Black Hawk Wildlife Area
Blackhawk Bottoms
Blue Lake
Bluebird Access
Brighton Access
Browns Lake
Center Lake Complex
Christopherson Slough Complex
Clear Lake Wildlife Unit
Cliffland Access
Cone Marsh
Dakota City Access
Dan Green Slough
Deer Island Wildlife Area
Des Moines River Access
Dewey's Pasture Complex
Diamond Lake
Edgewater Beach
Elk Creek Marsh
Elk Lake Wetland Complex
English River Access
Eveland Access
Five Island Lake
Fogle Lake 1
Fogle Lake 2
Fogle Lake 3
Gitchie Manitou
Goose Lake
Grand River Wildlife Unit 1
Grand River Wildlife Unit 2
Great Lakes Wildlife Unit

Hales Slough
Hamburg – Mitchell Access
Hardfish Access
Hawthorn Wildlife Area
Ingham-High Wetland Complex
Iowa Lake 1
Iowa Lake 2
Iowa Lake Access 3
Kattleson Hogsback Complex
Klum Lake
Lake Cornelia Access
Lake Icaria
Lake Icaria Wildlife Area 1
Lake Icaria Wildlife Area 2
Lake Sugema 1
Lake Sugema 2
Little Clear Lake
Little River
Little Sioux Wildlife Area
Little Storm Lake
Lizard Lake
Lower Hamburg Bend
MacCoon Access
McKain Access
Meadow Lake 1
Meadow Lake 2
Miami Lake Access
Middle Decatur Bend
Mississippi River Islands
Missouri River Wildlife Unit
Morse Lake
Mount Ayr Wildlife Area 1
Mount Ayr Wildlife Area 2
Nishnabotna Wildlife Unit
Odessa Wildlife Area
Orleans Access
Pickerel Lake
Prairie Lakes Wildlife Unit
Rainbow Bend Access
Rand Access

Rathbun Wildlife Area
Rathbun Wildlife Unit
Red Cedar Access
Redwing Access
Rice Lake Wildlife Area
Riverton Wildlife Area
Rock Creek Island Preserve
Rock-Sioux Access
Round Lake Wildlife Area
Rubio Access
Rush Lake
Selma Access
Shidepoke Access
Silver Lake
Silver Lake Complex
Skunk River Access
Skunk River Wildlife Area
Snyder Bend
South Skunk River Access
South Twin Lake
Spirit Lake Access
Sugema Wildlife Unit
Tama Beach Access
Thayer Pond Recreation
Three Mile Lake
Three Mile Wildlife Area 1
Three Mile Wildlife Area 2
Tieville Bend
Turkey Run Access
Turtle Bend Wildlife Area
Tuttle Lake Wetland Complex
Twelve Mile Lake
Tyson Bend
Union Mills Access
Upper Decatur Bend
Virgin Lake
Washta Access
Weedland Access
West Fork Access
West Swan Lake

White Horse Access
Wiese Slough Wildlife Area
Williamson Pond
Willow Slough
Willows Access
Winnebago Bend 1
Winnebago Bend 2

**Addendum B—MFT 2011 Expenditure Report**

<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Federal</b>	<b>MFT</b>	<b>Other</b>	<b>Total Expense</b>
Water Trails Program	\$5,587	\$233,174		\$238,761
Construction Services Transfer Operations		\$134,216		\$134,216
County Cost Share Projects		\$35,202		\$35,202
County Cost Share Projects-cost shared	\$23,292	\$23,292		\$46,584
MFT FEMA-FLOOD OF 08-DR1763		\$26,113	\$235,017	\$261,130
MFT Small/Misc Projects		\$3,750		\$3,750
Minor Projects-Cost Shared	\$53,957	\$53,957		\$107,914
Honey Creek Resort-Boat Ramp, Riprap, and Marina	\$189,084	\$147,870		\$336,954
Okoboji-Hwy 9 modern restroom	\$67,587	\$67,587		\$135,175
Emerson Bay Boat Ramp Restroom	\$66,924	\$66,924		\$133,847
Ventura/Lynn Lorenzen Restroom/Parking	\$41,719	\$41,719		\$83,437
Lake Macbride Ramp Restroom/Septic	\$87,915	\$87,915		\$175,829
Brushy Creek-SE Boat Ramp Restroom	\$8,365	\$8,365		\$16,729
Lake MacBride Circle Point Ramp RR	\$150	\$150		\$300
Geode Main Boat Ramp Restroom	\$9,155	\$9,155		\$18,310
Red Rock/Elk Rock Access Platform &Docks	\$14,318	\$14,318		\$28,636
Red Rock/Elk Rock Ramp Restroom	\$125	\$125		\$250
Ramp & Access Renovation General		\$12,467		\$12,467
Honey Creek State Park-Rip Rap	\$51,522	\$51,522		\$103,045
Law Enforcement and State Park Boat Purchases		\$335,916		\$335,916
**Lost Grove Lake Dam Construction	\$459,956	\$0		\$459,956
<b>Total Marine Fuel Tax</b>	<b>\$1,079,655</b>	<b>\$1,353,736</b>	<b>\$235,017</b>	<b>\$2,668,408</b>

\*\*This number represents expenses to date for Lost Grove Lake Dam Construction. Funds contracted to this project had not drawn from Marine Fuel Tax at the closing of June 30, 2011 although construction was underway.