

American Sportfishing Association (ASA)

For more than 75 years, ASA has represented the interests of the sportfishing industry evolving from representing the interests of just tackle manufacturers to championing the entire sportfishing community. Ultimately anglers, boaters and other sportsmen and women are the most significant funding sources for conservation and recreation in this country. Angler participation and the equipment and fishing licenses they purchase are crucial to conservation management in the United States. In fact, the U.S. model of fisheries conservation and management is the envy of countries around the globe.

ASA's projects include:

- National Fish Habitat Action Plan - ASA has played an integral role in the development of the National Fish Habitat Action Plan (NFHAP), a national conservation effort to protect, restore and enhance the nation's fisheries and aquatic resources through partnerships that foster fish habitat conservation. ASA and the other members of the NFHAP legislative group are working for passage of the National Fish Habitat Conservation Act, which will authorize NFHAP and provide \$75 million for this conservation program.
- FishAmerica Foundation - Since 1983, the FishAmerica Foundation, the conservation and research arm of the American Sportfishing Association, has provided more than \$10 million for more than 800 community-based conservation and research projects across the United States, including more than \$1 million in funding for California. The FishAmerica Foundation unites the sportfishing industry with conservation groups, government natural resource agencies, corporations, and charitable foundations to invest in fish and habitat conservation and research across the country.
- Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund (Wallop-Breaux) Reauthorization - The Angling and Boating Alliance (ABA), comprised of ASA and other key angling and boating groups, is working to find consensus and promote the reauthorization to Congress which funds important angling and boating programs such as fisheries monitoring; habitat conservation and restoration; fishing and boating access facilities such as docks, piers, and boat ramps; and education and safety programs for anglers and boaters. In 2008 the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund had \$720 million in revenues, \$402 million of which was apportioned to the 50 states specifically for sportfish restoration. From 1952 through 2008 state fish and wildlife/natural resource agencies have received more than \$5.7 billion in funding through the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund for fishery conservation and enhancement. In addition, fishing license sales generate nearly \$560 million more in annual revenues for state conservation and education programs.
- Klamath River Salmon Restoration Project - ASA has played a significant role in helping to reach an historic agreement to remove the four most seaward dams on the Klamath River. In November 2008, PacifiCorp agreed to decommission and remove the dams which will open up more than 300 miles of habitat for Klamath salmon and steelhead populations and eliminate water quality problems caused by the dams' reservoirs in a river that was once the nation's third-largest salmon producer.

- California Delta Water Management - ASA has been actively working on water management issues in the California Central Valley since 2007. ASA's involvement has included meeting with California Congressional representatives to discuss the fisheries collapse, writing letters to legislators and federal officials, and providing comments to the California legislature on a bill to reverse the collapse of Central Valley salmon populations. Water4Fish, which ASA has strongly supported, has campaigned to protect and restore the salmon, steelhead and other fish of California that have been negatively affected by dams, pollution, water diversions, lethal water temperatures and reduced stream and river flows.