

NEWS RELEASE

Sport Fish Restoration Project Awards Winners Announced

The annual Sport Fish Restoration (SFR) outstanding project awards given by the Fisheries Administration Section of the American Fisheries Society are intended to both highlight the importance and effectiveness of the SFR program and recognize excellence in fisheries management, research, and education. The SFR program, also known as the Dingell-Johnson or Wallop-Breaux program after its primary Congressional sponsors, is an excise tax collected on fishing tackle, boats, and motorboat fuel. Revenues are returned to the states to enhance fisheries and boating activities. The program was first created in 1950 and has provided nearly \$3 billion toward better fishing and boating.

The Fisheries Administration Section recognizes the absolutely critical importance of this program for state fisheries agencies, but also knows that the program is subject to periodic reauthorization by Congress and ongoing scrutiny from the users who pay the excise tax. This annual awards program helps identify and showcase outstanding fisheries projects from across the country and hopefully generates continued support for the SFR program. Three "Outstanding Project of the Year" awards are given each year, one in each of the following categories: Sport Fishery Development and Management, Research and Surveys, and Aquatic Education. In addition, Honorable Mentions are awarded if appropriate. The 2007 award winning projects are described below:

2007 Sport Fishery Development and Management Outstanding SFR Project of the Year

Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation—Evening Hole and Lost Creek Restoration Project

Applied fluvial geomorphology techniques were used to improve fish habitat, channel shape, stream flow, sediment transport and water temperature in Evening Hole, a 1,600-foot trout stream below Broken Bow Reservoir. In addition, a new 1,200-foot trout stream, called Lost Creek, was constructed nearby, along a remnant floodplain. Vegetation, grade control, and bank stabilization structures were installed to ensure stream stability, while riffles, runs, pools, woody cover, native gravel, and cobblestones were added to provide trout habitat. The project was made possible by donations from trout anglers and SFR funds. Other partners included the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Oklahoma Department of Tourism.

Project contact: Jeff Boxrucker, (405) 521-4606, jboxrucker@odwc.state.ok.us

2007 Research and Surveys Outstanding SFR Project of the Year

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources—Lake Survey Mobile Software and Hardware Project

A robust mobile Fisheries Lake Survey system was developed and implemented to capture, store, analyze, and share current and historical physical, chemical, and biological information regarding habitat, water quality and fish population characteristics. This new system provides data entry while in the field and allows immediate reporting, saving thousands of hours of staff time (valued at >\$200,000 annually), ensuring quality data, and easier sharing with the public.

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[2007 Aquatic Education Outstanding SFR Project of the Year](#)

Texas Department of Parks and Wildlife—Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center

SFR Funds, along with a variety of both private and public partners, have allowed the Center to increase its public education offerings since the facility was constructed in 1996. Over the last six years, a fish hatchery tram was constructed and placed into service; a wetlands and a wetlands trail with interpretive wayside exhibits, pavilions, restrooms, and interactive interpretive stations were completed; and an outdoor amphitheater, a casting pond and pier; a conservation center, a classroom, a teaching lab, and a game warden museum were built.

Project contact: Allen Forshage, (903) 670-2224, Allen.Forshage@tpwd.state.tx.us

[2007 Honorable Mention SFR Project of the Year](#)

Arkansas Game and Fish Commission and Arkansas Chapter of Trout Unlimited—Renovation of Parker Bend Angler Access Facility

An angler access facility on a tailwater trout stream below Beaver Reservoir was renovated to protect the streambank from erosion, deepen the main channel, improve fish habitat, and enhance angler opportunities, including access for handicapped anglers. Two “J-Vanes,” each 200 feet long, were constructed using boulders that were capped with 160 feet of sidewalk. SFR funds, FEMA funds, a contribution from the Arkansas Chapter of Trout Unlimited, and a Lowe’s Store (that donated the boulders) made the project possible.

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[2007 Honorable Mention SFR Project of the Year](#)

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources—Fishing: Get in the Habitat!

The MinnAqua Leader’s Guide for Angling and Aquatic Education is a 1,300-page curriculum for grades 3-5 that has chapters on aquatic habitats, Minnesota fish, water stewardship, fisheries management, fishing equipment and skills, and safety and the fishing trip. It includes 39 lessons and appendices that intend to lead students on a developmental continuum of learning from awareness, knowledge, attitudes, skills development, to empowerment and action.

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