

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is seeking public input on our proposal to revise the Sport Fish Restoration (SFR) Boat Access Development Project Ranking Sheet. The DNR is being proactive in notifying potential 2014 applicants now about this anticipated change so that you can better plan your grant application work.

A. Why Are We Making This Change?

To revise and clarify the ranking and rating criteria used to award grant funds for boat access development projects.

B. Background. The Sport Fish Restoration grant program is administered through the Wisconsin DNR. Funding for this program comes from federal excise taxes on fishing equipment and a portion of the federal gas tax. These grants may be used to construct motorboat access projects. Eligible components include boat ramp construction and renovation, along with related amenities such as parking lots, accessible paths, lighting, and restroom facilities.

Often, the value of applications exceeds available funding. The Project Ranking Sheet is a tool used by DNR regional grant specialists to score and rank proposed boat access development projects submitted by local government for SFR funding consideration. The revised draft document clarifies how a project is rated on its own merits, based on established criteria.

C. Summary of Proposed Changes. The rating criteria and point values were modified to better assist the Department with the evaluation of applications for SFR grant funding. Funding requests are prioritized based on the following factors:

- Distance of proposed project from other recreational boating facilities.
- Demand for safe boating facilities.
- Number of existing facilities.
- State of readiness.
- Applicant’s commitment of matching funds.

D. Remaining Steps. Once the 21-day comment period is complete, all comments will be considered, revisions will be made to this draft guidance document as warranted, a *Response Summary* will be prepared, then both the *Response Summary* and *Final Guidance* will be made available using the existing DNR Program Guidance web page (<http://dnr.wi.gov/news/input/guidance.html>) and will be posted on the SFR grants web page.

Please forward your comments about this proposed policy no later than February 20, 2014, to:	Name: Kathleen Wolski, Public Waterways Access Coordinator	Phone: (414) 263-8670
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Proposed

Sport Fish Restoration (SFR) Boat Access Development Project Ranking Sheet

APPLICANT NAME	PROJECT NAME
MUNICIPALITY NAME	COUNTY NAME
WATERBODY NAME	WATERBODY SIZE (IN ACRES)
EXISTING VEHICLE TRAILER UNITS (VTU)	EXISTING VEHICLES-ONLY UNITS
MINIMUM VTU per s. NR 1.91(4)(d)	MAXIMUM VTU per s. NR 1.91(5)(b)
TOTAL PROJECT COST	SFR GRANT REQUEST
	REQUEST AS % OF TOTAL COST

PROJECT CRITERIA	Points
<p>1. Project is on a Great Lake, on a major river, or an inland lake that is 500 acres or larger, and the nearest boat access site is:</p> <p style="margin-left: 20px;">Less than 5 miles 0 points 5 to 10 miles 1 point 11 to 20 miles 2 points Over 20 miles 3 points</p>	
<p><i>NOTE: Nearest access site must be publically owned and maintained and provide legal parking. Roadside parking is okay, as is a gravel ramp that will accommodate a motor boat.</i></p>	
<p>2. Relationship of cumulative existing waterbody access to waterbody standards per NR 1.91(4)(d) and (5)(b).</p> <p>Example: *Minimum = 10 Maximum = 20 50% of difference = 15</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •No publically owned and maintained access on waterbody 4 points •Below minimum standards 3 points •At minimum or above but less than 50% of difference between minimum and maximum* 2 points •Above minimum and greater than 50% of the difference between minimum and maximum* 1 point

3. Project is associated with a harbor of refuge or protected launch.	1 point	
<i>NOTE: A harbor of refuge is a structure, either man-made or natural, that serves to substantially decrease wave height to provide calmer water for temporary moorage or the launch/retrieval of boats s. NR 7.03(14).</i>		
4. Project satisfies a compliance order or a FERC imposed deadline	1 point	
<i>NOTE: A compliance order is issued by either a state, federal or local regulator. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) is generally associated with the licensure of hydroelectric dams.</i>		
5. Project corrects a health or safety hazard. (Documentation provided)	2 points	
6. Local share of total project cost:	Greater than 75% 60 – 75% 40 – 59%	3 points 2 points 1 point
7. State of Readiness:		
• Project has final engineering plans suitable for construction or bidding or project does not require further planning or design for construction to begin.	2 points	
• Project has preliminary site plans but additional engineering or design work is necessary before construction can begin.	1 point	
8. Applicant has never received a Recreational Boating Facilities (RBF) grant, Sport Fish Restoration (SFR) grant, or Boating Infrastructure Grant (BIG	0.2 point	
9. Applicant has not received a RBF, SFR or BIG grant in the past five (5) years.	0.1 point	
	Total Points =	
	(Maximum points=16.3)	

Signature of Evaluator

Date

Sport Fish Restoration Motorboat Access Development
Project Ranking Sheet

Project Name _____

County _____ Waterbody _____

Total Estimated Cost \$ _____ SFR Estimated Cost \$ _____

Project Considerations

1. Project is on a Great Lake or on a major river (can regularly sustain motorized boat traffic throughout the boating season) **and** is ≥ 5 water miles from the nearest motorized boat access site (1 point) _____
2. Project is on an inland lake ≥ 500 acres (1 point) _____
3. Relationship of cumulative waterbody access (including proposed project) to waterbody standards per NR 1.91(4)(d) and (5)(b)
 - Below minimum standards (3 points) _____
 - Above minimum, but $< 60\%$ of the difference between the maximum and minimum (2 points) _____
 - $>$ Above the minimum and $> 60\%$ of the difference between the maximum and minimum standards (1 point) _____
4. Project develops access on an inland lake where no public access exists (2 points) _____
5. Project is associated with a harbor of refuge or protected launch (1 point) _____
6. Project will correct existing water quality problems associated with surface runoff or shoreline deterioration (2 points) _____
7. Project satisfies a compliance order or satisfies a FERC imposed deadline (3 points) _____
8. Project corrects a health or safety hazard (2 points) _____

Administrative Considerations

9. 50% or more of the total cost is from another source (any state or local funding) (1 point) _____
10. Non-DNR sponsor will build/operate/maintain ≥ 20 years (2 points) _____
11. Regional prioritization of projects submitted for a fiscal year (Max 5 points per Region) _____

Total Points _____

Signature of Evaluator _____ Date _____

Explanation of Items under #3

This criteria attempts to measure how well developed a waterbody is in comparison with its minimum and maximum standards outlined in NR 1.91, Wis. Adm. Code. This item is also consistent with the ranking criteria used for state recreational boating funds.

Example 1

A sponsor wishes to develop an access on the south side of a 300 acre lake that has no public access. The size of the land parcel only allows the development of an 8 car/trailer parking area. According to NR1.91, the minimum for this waterbody is 10 car/trailer spaces and the maximum is 20. This project would score 3 points, i.e. below the minimum.

Example 2

The Department is going to do a major rehabilitation on an access that has an existing 15 car/trailer parking area on a lake that is 600 acres in size. The renovation also will expand the car/trailer parking by 5 spaces to a total of 20. According to NR 1.91, the minimum for the lake is 17 car/ trailer spaces and the maximum is 24. Doing the math, $17 + 60\% (24-17) = 17$ (minimum) $+4 (60\%) = 21$; 20 spaces is <21 spaces, so the project would get 2 points.

Example 3

A sponsor is going to renovate and expand a small existing launch site to a 2000 acre lake. The site to be developed presently contains 10 car/trailer spaces and the sponsor will add an additional 7 spaces. There are also two other launch sites on this lake that have a combined total of 40 car/trailer spaces. According to NR 1.91, the minimum for the lake is 40 car/trailer spaces and the maximum is 66. Doing the math, $40 + 60\% (66-40) = 40$ (minimum) $+16 (60\%) = 56$; 57 spaces is > 56 spaces, so the project gets 1 point.

Item #5

A harbor of refuge is a structure, either man-made or natural, that serves to substantially decrease wave height to provide calmer water for temporary moorage or the launch/retrieval of boats.

Item#7

A compliance order is an official order that is issued by either a state, federal or local regulator. FERC stands for Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. FERC is generally associated with the licensure of hydro electric dams.

Item#11

Each Region has the option to use a maximum of 5 points per fiscal year to rank prioritization of their projects. Say a Region is bringing forward 5 projects to an April BOAT Team meeting, they could use the 5 points on 1 of the 5 projects, meaning the remaining 4 get 0 points for this item, or they could give each project 1 point for this item, meaning that each project is equal in priority for that Region.