

## **FINAL PROGRAM GUIDANCE – REVISED PROJECT RANKING CRITERIA FOR SPORT FISH RESTORATION BOAT ACCESS GRANT PROGRAM**

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is revising project ranking criteria that it uses to evaluate application received for Federal Sport Fish Restoration Boat Access Development Program funds. The DNR will begin using these criteria for applications submitted on or before February 1, 2015.

### **A. Why Are We Making This Change?**

To revise and clarify the criteria that DNR staff use to score Sport Fish Restoration Boat Access Development applications. Project score determine project rank. Project rank determines likelihood of grant award for boat access development projects.

**B. Background.** The Federal Sport Fish Restoration (SFR) 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 and related amenities, such as parking lots, accessible paths, lighting, and restroom facilities.

Often, the value of all grant applications exceeds available funding. The Project Ranking Sheet is a tool used by DNR field grant specialists to score and rank proposed boat access development projects submitted by local government requesting SFR funding. The revised Project Ranking Sheet clarifies how a project will be rated based on established criteria. The scoring criteria and assigned point values were modified to improve the evaluation of applications for SFR grant funding by DNR staff. Applications will be 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 funds to match DNR grant funds awarded.

**C. Summary of Changes.** The DNR received no public comments about the revised SFR Project Ranking Sheet. However, DNR staff identified a clarification needed to avoid confusion in questions #1 and #2 and have incorporated that clarification into the Project Ranking Sheet, as follows:

Question #1. Modify this question so that it applies only to Great Lakes and major rivers. Eliminate “*or an inland lake that is 500 acres or larger*” that appears in the draft text.

Question #2. Modify this question so that it applies only to inland lakes. Add phrase “*On inland lakes*” at the beginning of question #2.

**D. Communication Efforts.** The updated SFR Project Ranking Sheet will be posted on the DNR web page for the SFR grant.

**E. Remaining Steps.** This *Final Program Guidance* and the *Response Summary* of all comments received during the 21-day comment period are being posted on the DNR's Program Guidance web page (<http://dnr.wi.gov/news/input/guidance.html>) and will be posted on the SFR grants web page.

Prepared by: [Kathleen Wolski](#), Public Waterways Access Coordinator  
Phone: (414) 263-8670  
Date: March 10, 2014

**FINAL PROGRAM GUIDANCE – Sport Fish Restoration Boat Access Grant Program**

**Sport Fish Restoration (SFR) Boat Access Development  
Project Ranking Sheet** (last revised: 21March2014)

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
1. Project is on a Great Lake or major river and the nearest boat access site is:	Less than 5 miles	0 points
	5 to 10 miles	1 point
	11 to 20 miles	2 points
	Over 20 miles	3 points
<i><b>NOTE:</b> Nearest access site must be publicly owned and maintained and provide legal parking. Roadside parking is okay, as is a gravel ramp that will accommodate a motor boat.</i>		
2. On inland lakes, what is the relationship of cumulative existing waterbody access to waterbody standards per s. <a href="#">NR 1.91(4)(d)</a> and <a href="#">(5)(b)</a> . ?  Example: *Minimum = 10 Maximum = 20 50% of difference = 15	•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

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PROJECT CRITERIA		Points
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. <a href="#">NR 7.03(14)</a>.</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. What is local share of total project cost:	Greater than 75% 60 – 75% 40 – 59%	3 points 2 points 1 point
7. State of Readiness:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project has final engineering plans suitable for construction or bidding or project does not require further planning or design for construction to begin.</li> </ul>	2 points	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project has preliminary site plans but additional engineering or design work is necessary before construction can begin.</li> </ul>	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	
	<b>Total Points =</b>	
	<b>(Maximum points=16.3)</b>	

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Evaluator

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date