

March-April 1985  
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# BOAT

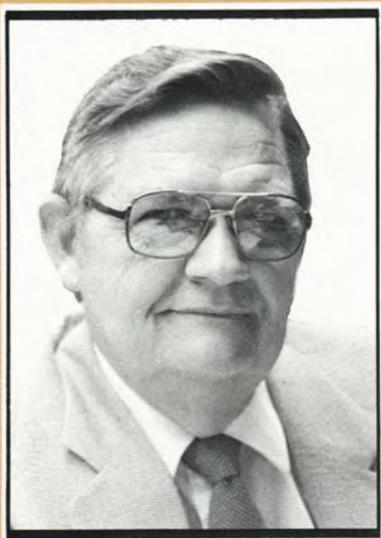
*Pennsylvania*



The Keystone State's Official Boating Magazine

# Viewpoint

## The Wallop-Breaux Fund



Gene Spori  
Assistant Executive Director  
Bureau of Waterways  
Pennsylvania Fish Commission

In the last issue of *Boat Pennsylvania*, we talked about where the money comes from and where the money goes. Let's continue by discussing a new federal source of revenue that over the years will be most important to Pennsylvania boaters.

Last summer, the National Aquatics Resource Trust Fund was established by the 98th Congress. This fund is popularly known as the Wallop-Breaux Fund, named after its prime sponsors, Senator Malcolm Wallop of Wyoming and Representative John Breaux of Louisiana. Revenues accruing to the fund come from the tax on gasoline used in boats, import duties imposed on foreign-built boats and associated equipment, and a tax imposed on items of fishing equipment not previously taxed under the Dingell-Johnson Act of 1950. The Wallop-Breaux Fund will accumulate revenues of about \$100 million annually. It is important to note that except for a tax on certain items of fishing equipment, no new taxes are being imposed. The act simply redirects into a dedicated fund monies already being collected.

Two separate accounts are contained in the fund, the Recreational Boating Account and the Sport Fisheries Enhancement Account. The first \$45 million accruing to the fund goes into the Boating Account, administered by the Coast Guard; \$1 million is deposited in the Land and Water Conservation Fund, administered by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service; and the remainder goes into the Sport Fisheries Enhancement Account, administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Some \$30 million of the Boating Account is to be allocated to the states for boating safety and public access acquisition, development, and maintenance. The allocation is based on one third divided equally among applying states, a third based on boat

registration, and another third based on the amount of state monies invested in the program. If fully funded, Pennsylvania's share would be about \$600,000, or about \$3 per registered boat. Some \$15 million is allocated to the Coast Guard for its recreational boating program.

The Sport Fisheries Enhancement Account is important to boaters as well as to anglers. These monies are allocated in the same manner as are Dingell-Johnson funds. That is, a formula is used, which is based on a state's population, geographic size, and number of fishing licenses sold. The new law mandates that at least 10 percent of this money be used for acquisition, construction, and maintenance of boating accesses. It further provides that up to 10 percent may be used for aquatic education, which includes boating safety.

There is a technical aspect of this law that is important to you. Money deposited in the Boating Account must be appropriated annually by the Congress. Whatever is not appropriated spills over into the Sport Fisheries Account, which is a continuing appropriation. This means that the Fish and Wildlife Service may allocate this money as it accumulates in the Sport Fisheries Account without going to the Congress.

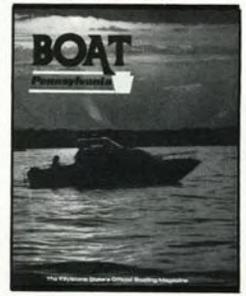
Last September, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) determined that money not appropriated would revert to the General Treasury. The subsequent uproar by boating and fishing organizations got OMB to reverse its determination. But in these days of tight fiscal policy, budget reduction, and the Administration's commitment not to raise taxes, there's no guarantee that such a move will not be tried again. Be on guard! Don't feel bad about raising a ruckus. These are monies you have paid into a dedicated fund, and you should expect a return in the form of services.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gene Spori". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in the bottom right corner of the page.

# BOAT

## Pennsylvania

The time to put your boat back in the water is almost here! This issue's front cover, photographed by Mike Simmons, shows a boat on Lake Erie that successfully went through its relaunching maintenance and tuning. Your boat, though, may not make it this far unless you check out the information in the article on page 14. The back cover, whetting the appetite for whitewater on the Yough, appears courtesy of Lance Martin, Wilderness Voyageurs, Inc.



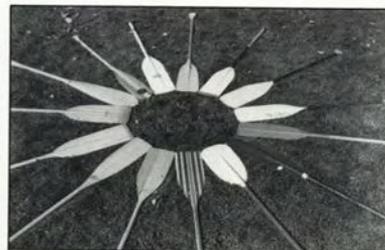
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The authors' views, ideas, and advice expressed in this magazine do not necessarily reflect the opinion or official position of the Pennsylvania Fish Commission or its staff.

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