

American System of Conservation Funding State Sheets

Resources and Methods

Overview

Each year, the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation (CSF) develops state-specific documents that outline the funding provided to each individual state through the American System of Conservation Funding (ASCF). The three pillars to the ASCF include revenue from sporting licenses, and excise tax revenue from both the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Programs. These state-specific documents are designed to provide essential information to our partners and the public to help them more thoroughly understand the contributions that sportsmen and women make to conservation in all 50 states. These documents serve as a public resource and are available on our website at congressionalsportsmen.org.

This "Resources and Methods" document serves to outline the process used to obtain state-specific funding numbers indicated on the state ASCF sheets, including key definitions that explain what the numbers are representing.

This document refers to the ASCF sheets on the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation website.

Key Definitions

Hunting Licenses*: Refers to the amount of funding provided to the state through hunting licenses.

Fishing Licenses*: Refers to the amount of funding provided to the state through fishing licenses.

Pittman-Robertson (P-R): Refers to the amount of funding provided to the state through Pittman-Robertson apportionments.

Dingell-Johnson/Wallop-Breaux (D-J/W-B): Refers to the amount of funding provided to the state through Dingell-Johnson/Wallop-Breaux apportionments.

Yearly Funding: Refers to the combined yearly amount of funding provided to the state from hunting licenses, fishing licenses, PR funds, and DJ funds.

Yearly National Ranking: Refers to the ranking of the state compared to the other 49 states.

Historical Funding Total: Refers to the total amount of historical funding that has been provided to the state since the inception of the American System of Conservation Funding, inclusive of fishing licenses, hunting licenses, P-R funds (1939) and D-J funds (1952).

Historical Funding U.S. Rank: Refers to the historical ranking of the state compared to the other 49 states since 1939 for P-R, and 1952 for D-J.

Yearly Paid License Holders* (referred to as, "Certified Paid License Holders" prior to 2002): Refers to the yearly number of paid licenses holders for the state.

Yearly Total License/Permits/Tags*: Refers to the yearly number of licenses/permits/tags purchased in the state.

Sportsmen and Women-Generated Dollars (Percentages): Refers to the total percentage of the state fish and wildlife agency's budget that is generated by sportsmen and women.

** Although these figures are labeled as current-year data by the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) it is important to note that they may be a couple of years old due to the certification process. For example, 2018 license data, once certified, is used to calculate the 2020 apportionments. These fact sheets provide all current-year data, as labeled by FWS, and discrepancies with the more current data available from the respective state fish and wildlife agencies may exist.*

Methods

Yearly Hunting License funding:

To obtain the Yearly Hunting License Funding, CSF utilizes data publicly available at: <https://wsfrprograms.fws.gov/subpages/licenseinfo/Hunting.htm>, then visits the link for the historical hunting license data for the respective year, and enters the numbers from the “Gross Cost-Hunting Licenses.”

Yearly Fishing License funding:

To obtain the Yearly Fishing License Funding, CSF utilizes data publicly available at: <https://wsfrprograms.fws.gov/subpages/licenseinfo/fishing.htm>, then visits the link for the historical fishing license data for the respective year, and enters the numbers from the “Gross Cost-Fishing Licenses.”

Yearly Pittman-Robertson funding:

To obtain the Yearly P-R Funding, CSF utilizes data publicly available at: https://wsfrprograms.fws.gov/subpages/GrantPrograms/WR/WR_Funding.htm, then visits the respective year [WR Final Apportionment link](#), and enters the numbers from the “TOTAL – ALL WILDLIFE” column of the report on the page titled, “FINAL APPORTIONMENT OF PITTMAN-ROBERTSON WILDLIFE RESTORATION FUNDS FOR FISCAL YEAR [enter year]”

Yearly Dingell-Johnson/Wallop-Breaux funding:

To obtain the Yearly D-J/W-B Funding, CSF utilizes data publicly available at: https://wsfrprograms.fws.gov/subpages/GrantPrograms/SFR/SFR_Funding.htm, then visits the respective year [SFR Amended Final Apportionment link](#), and enters the numbers from the “TOTAL SPORTFISH RESTORATION 2021” column of the report on the page titled, “AMENDED FINAL APPORTIONMENT OF DINGELL-JOHNSON SPORT FISH RESTORATION FUNDS FOR FISCAL YEAR [enter year]”

Total Yearly funding:

CSF calculates a sum of yearly hunting licenses, yearly fishing licenses, yearly P-R funds, and yearly D-J/W-B funds for the state.

Yearly Paid License Holders:

CSF calculates a sum of yearly paid hunting license holders and paid fishing license holders for the state.

Yearly total licenses/permits/tags:

CSF calculates a sum of yearly hunting licenses/permits/tags and yearly fishing licenses/permits/tags for the state.

Please see the methods below for retrieving yearly certified paid license holder numbers, and yearly total license/permits/tags by state:

Yearly Paid License Holders HUNTING

To obtain the Yearly Hunting License Holders, CSF utilizes data publicly available at: <https://www.fws.gov/wsfrprograms/subpages/LicenseInfo/Hunting.htm>, then visits the link for the respective year [historical hunting license data](#), and enters the numbers found in the column titled “Paid Hunting License Holders.”

Yearly Paid License Holders FISHING

To obtain the Yearly Fishing License Holders, CSF utilizes data publicly available at: <https://www.fws.gov/wsfrprograms/subpages/licenseinfo/fishing.htm>, then visits the link for the respective year historical fishing license data, and enters the numbers found in the column titled “Paid Fishing License Holders.”

Yearly Total Licenses/Permits/Tags HUNTING

To obtain the yearly total for hunting licenses/permits/tags, CSF utilizes data publicly available at: <https://www.fws.gov/wsfrprograms/subpages/LicenseInfo/Hunting.htm>, then visits the link for historical hunting license data for the respective year, and enters the numbers from the column titled, “Total Hunting License, Tags, Permits and Stamps.”

Yearly Total Licenses/Permits/Tags FISHING

To obtain the yearly total for fishing licenses/permits/tags, CSF utilizes data publicly available at: <https://www.fws.gov/wsfrprograms/subpages/licenseinfo/fishing.htm> then visits the link for historical fishing license data for the respective year, and enters the numbers from the column titled, “Total Fishing License, Tags, Permits and Stamps.”

Historical hunting license revenue:

To obtain the historical hunting license revenue, CSF adds the respective years’ hunting license revenue to the previous years’ historical hunting license revenue number.

Historical fishing license revenue:

To obtain the historical fishing license revenue, CSF adds the respective years’ fishing license revenue to the previous years’ historical fishing license revenue number.

Historical Pittman-Robertson totals:

To obtain the historical P-R totals, CSF visits https://www.fws.gov/wsfrprograms/subpages/GrantPrograms/WR/WR_Funding.htm, and visits the link, “1939 through 2021 WR Apportionments (includes Hunter Ed).” This prompts an Excel spreadsheet to download from the website. Next, CSF pulls the total-to-date number from the 50 states, which excludes American Samoa, Guam, N. Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Historical Dingell-Johnson/Wallop-Breaux totals:

To obtain the historical D-J/W-B totals, CSF visits https://www.fws.gov/wsfrprograms/subpages/GrantPrograms/SFR/SFR_Funding.htm, and visits the link, “1952 through 2021 SFR Apportionments.” This prompts an Excel spreadsheet to download from the website. Next, CSF pulls the total-to-date number from the 50 states, which excludes American Samoa, Guam, N. Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Historical total sum of hunting license revenue, fishing license revenue, P-R totals, and D-J/W-B totals:

CSF calculates a sum of historical hunting license revenue, historical fishing license revenue, historical P-R apportionment totals, and historical D-J/W-B apportionment totals.

Percentages

These numbers were derived from direct conversations with state agencies. For more information, please contact the respective CSF state representative.