



Maryland's Waterway Improvement Fund
Boating Services

Your Boat Tax At Work!

The Waterway Improvement Fund was created in 1966 by Natural Resources Article 8-701 to support the development, use, and enjoyment of all waters of the State of Maryland for the benefit of the general boating public. **Revenues for this Fund are obtained primarily from the one-time 5% excise tax that is paid to the State of Maryland when a boat is purchased and titled in the State.**

The Fund provides financial support to local governments, the Department of Natural Resources, and federal agencies in the form of grants and/or loans for a wide variety of capital projects and services for the boating public including:



- Marking of channels and harbors and establishing aids to navigation.
- Clearing of debris and obstructions from navigable waters of the State.
- Dredging channels and harbors, and constructing jetties and breakwaters, including those projects in cooperation with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.
- Constructing/maintaining public marine facilities beneficial to the general boating public.
- Improving, reconstructing, or removing bridges, drawbridges or similar structures over or across water if those structures delay, impede, or obstruct the boating public.

- Installing marine sewage pump-out stations.
- Evaluating water-oriented recreation needs and capacities of Maryland waterways and the development of comprehensive plans for waterway improvement projects.
- Supporting marine operations for the Natural Resources Police.
- Boating information and education.
- Constructing facilities and acquiring vessels/equipment for State and local marine firefighting, police, first aid and medical assistance, and communications for promoting safety of life and property and general service to the boating public.
- Completing boating related shoreline erosion control projects.



Martin O'Malley, Governor - Anthony G. Brown, Lt. Governor - John R. Griffin, Secretary



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The type of grant or funding selected for an eligible project is dependent upon the scope of the project, statutory guidelines, technical and environmental considerations, as well as to what degree the project benefits the general boating public.

- **100% State Grants (Not to exceed \$5,000)**

The Department may expend a total of \$125,000 each fiscal year, for a total of 25 grants not exceeding \$5,000 each, for minor construction, repair, and navigation projects located at public boating facilities.

- **100% State Grants (Less than \$100,000)**

Grants are awarded to public agencies to engineer, construct, and maintain public boating facilities.

- **100% State Grants**

Dredging major public recreational boat channels and harbors, marking channels and harbors, constructing jetties and breakwaters, clearing debris and obstructions from navigable waters, installing marine sewage pumpout stations, and constructing boating facilities on Department of Natural Resources lands which provide significant benefits to the general boating public.

- **Matching Grants**

Provide up to 50% in Waterway Improvement Funds to local, state, and federal agencies to plan, engineer, construct, dredge, and maintain public boating facilities, as well as acquire marine fire/rescue boats and equipment.

- **100% Interest Free Tax District Loans**

A local governing body may borrow interest free funds for a maximum 25 year term for waterway improvement projects within a Waterway Improvement Tax District.

For more information regarding grants and loans please contact:



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Visit us on the Web! <http://www.dnr.Maryland.gov>

Boating Access Guide: <http://mddnr.chesapeakebay.net/fish/state2.html>

Everything Boating: <http://www.dnr.state.md.us/boating/>

The facilities and services of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources are available to all without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, age, national origin or physical or mental disability.