

Division of Boating and Waterways

September 21, 2023

REPORT: Update on Aquatic Center Programming
PRESENTER: Amy Rigby
SUBJECT: DBW Aquatic Center Grant Program

Summary

The Aquatic Center Grants Program provides funding to organizations that offer on-the-water boating safety courses to the public that emphasize practical handling skills, boating laws, rules of the road, equipment requirements, and other boating safety information.

Funding can be utilized to purchase boating equipment, provide scholarships for courses, staff training, and to fund staffing and events associated with National Safe Boating Week.

Application Deadline: Fall 2023 for funding from the 2023/24 federal appropriation.

Application Procedure: Applicants are required to submit a complete application via DBW's online grant application system. Applications are then evaluated competitively and funding is awarded.

FY 2022-23 Funding: A total of \$1,567,000 was awarded to 43 grantees.

Typical Grant Amount: The average award during the last funding cycle was \$36,500. The annual funding cap is \$60,000 per organization with the potential for an additional \$2,000 available for participation in events related to National Safe Boating Week.

Funding Source: Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund administered by the United States Coast Guard through the Recreational Boating Safety grant.

Eligible Grant Recipients: Colleges or universities, local public agencies, or non-profit organizations.

Restrictions: Funding cannot be used for permanent structures. Courses must have an on-the-water component and be open to the public.

Program Updates:

USCG RBS project officers conducted a site visit of California in August during which DBW was able to take them on a tour of the Sacramento State Aquatic Center located on Lake Natoma. The annual aquatic center director's meeting will be held in person in Northern California on September 27 and 28 as well as in Southern California on October 4 and 5, 2023.