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Int'l. Falls, MN 56649

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August 18, 1998

John Velin, Director
Legislative Commission on MN Resources
100 Constitution Avenue 65
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155-1201

Dear Mr. Velin,

So far this year the Rainy Lake Sportfishing Club has purchased 3,000 catch and release hats and has purchased 400 catch and release rulers. This will be the most successful year for our catch and release program ever.

The exciting news is that the fishing is getting better, and the fishermen are realizing that releasing the big fish, so that they can continue to spawn, makes sense.

Sincerely,

Richard C. Schaak, Program Manager
RLSFC Club

"CATCH AND RELEASE"
 MN LAW 1997 Chapter 216 - Section 15 Subd 13 (h)

BUDGET DETAIL

July 1997 - July 1998

	LCMR	IN-KIND
Caps (2,500) @ \$3.50/ea	\$ 8,750	-0-
Rulers (1,500) @ \$.50/ea	\$ 750	-0-
Radio Advertising 7 days/wk x 12 weeks @ \$ 52/wk.	\$ 500	\$ 125
Daily Journal Ads Full page/wkly x 12 weeks @ \$549/wk.		\$ 6,581
Club Members labor @ 15.00/hr. approx. 74 hrs/month x 3 months July- August- Sept.*		\$ 3,330
Total	\$10,000	\$10,036 **

* represents July-August-Sept, 1997 - 98 for all of above.

** In-Kind match will be satisfied the first fiscal year of grant funding.

July 1998 - July 1999

	LCMR	IN-KIND
Caps (2,500) @ 3.50/ea	\$ 8,750	
Rulers (1500) a \$.50/ea	\$ 750	
Advertising radio Ad- 12/weeks @\$52/wk.		\$ 625
Daily Journal Ads Full page/Wkly x 12 weeks @ \$549/wk.	\$ 500	\$ 6,081
Club Members labor @ 15.00/hr. approx. 74 hr./month x 3 months		\$ 3,330
Total	\$10,000	\$10,036

Date of Report: June 27, 1997

Date of Next Status Report: January 15, 1998

Date of Work Plan Approval: June 23, 1997

Project Completion Date : June 1999

LCMR Work Program 1998 - 1999

I. PROJECT TITLE: Rainy Lake Sportfishing Club
Catch and Release - MN Laws 1997
Chapter 216 - Section 15
Subd. 13 (h)

Project Manager - Richard Schaak
Affiliation - RLSC Project Chair
Mailing Address - Box 888, International Falls, MN 56649
Telephone - (218) 283-2074
Facsimile - (218) 285-3641
Web Site Address: N/A

Total Biennial Project Budget:

LCMR: \$20,000 Match: \$10,000

LCMR Amt. Spent: -\$0- Match Amt. Spent: -\$0-

LCMR Bal. \$20,000 Match Bal. \$10,000

A. Legal Citation: MN LAW 1997 Chapter 216 - Section 15
Subd. Fisheries Subd. 13 (h)

CATCH AND RELEASE \$20,000

This appropriation is from the future resources fund to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with the Rainy Lake Sportfishing Club to accelerate its catch and release program. This appropriation must be matched by at least \$10,000 of non-state contributions, either cash or in-kind.

B. Status of Match Requirements: The Rainy Lake Sport Fishing Club has secured the matching funds of \$10,000 through in-kind contributions of radio and newspaper advertising and volunteer hours needed to distribute hats, rulers, participating in radio advertising slots, and in the actual fund raising efforts.

II. PROJECT SUMMARY AND RESULTS:

History

The Rainy Lake Sport Fishing Club has been in existence since 1984. The club's mission has been to improve the quality of fishing on Rainy Lake not only for present day anglers, but also for future generations.

This has been accomplished through club members directly working with the Department of Natural Resources to improve habitat for walleye, northern, bass, and crappie spawning,

by increasing awareness to peoples using the lake of the importance of such programs such as "Catch and Release". Club members have worked diligently with the state legislative bodies to appropriate monies for such projects and have lobbied to maintain limits on all fish species in the lake. The 750 + members hold a minimum of two (2) fund-raising efforts annually in addition to their annual membership drive. these events raise on the average of \$13,000 of the club's annual budget of \$32,000. The club sets aside an average of \$8,000 for such programs as "Catch and Release". The remaining funds are placed in the Walleye Endowment Fund, used for operations, and other projects sponsored by the Club.

Over the next two period, The Rainy Lake Sport Fishing Club plans to accelerate the "Catch and Release" Program. This shall be accomplished through implementing the following methods:

- a) Increased periodic advertising of the program through the Daily Journal, local radio stations and state wide media;
- b) Placement of posters promoting the "Catch and Release" program at all sportsmen stores, landings, resorts and motels;
- c) Working in collaboration with the " Daily Journal" through promotion of the annual fishing contest;
- d) Providing education to the public on proper handling and releasing techniques of fish to ensure lower mortality rates; and
- e) Awarding caps and rulers with the "Catch and Release" logo to all persons releasing large fish.

III. PROGRESS SUMMARY: Not Applicable this submission, will make complete progress report January 1998.

IV. OUTLINE OF PROJECT RESULTS:

Result 1. The Rainy Lake Sport Fishing will purchase 4,500 caps and 6,000 rulers in July 1997. The caps and rulers will be distributed by club members and designated reporting stations during the next two year period to persons large releasing fish.

Total Purchase	Requested	In-Kind
Price	LCMR	RLSC
\$19,350	\$10,750	\$8,600

Result 2. the club will work to increase public awareness of the "Catch and release" Program as well as public education on the correct manner in which to release large fish. This shall be accomplished through increased advertising on the radio and in newspapers, distribution of brochures, and posting of information in key areas. The radio advertising will take place on the average of two times weekly during the winter and summer fishing seasons and will be increased to three to four times weekly when

special fund-raising events. News releases and ads will be placed prior to all events. Posters defining and promoting "Catch and Release" will also be visible at events. Advertising will be intensified in during the summer fishing season starting the beginning of July 1997 and April 1998 and 1999 of the project period. A report of the advertising activities will be reported as defined under Section IX.

Total Advertising Costs	Requested LCMR	In-Kind RLSFC
\$10,650	\$9,250	\$1,400

V. DISSEMINATION:

Records of the success of the "Catch and Release" program will be documented by the DNR and reported to the media the end of the year 2000. Results of the Sport Fishing Club's efforts ie; number of hats distributed for each fish reported as caught and released will also be documented and used to further promote the program and to seek future funding.

VI. CONTEXT:

A. Significance: Walleye abundance in Rainy Lake still remains low and over harvesting remains a problem. Awareness of "Catch and Release" is increasing through efforts of the sport club, the DNR, conservation magazines and others, however continued efforts to accelerate this concept are needed. Rulers, brochures, patches, decals, and magazine articles had emphasized the "Catch and Release" ethic, however have not received the desired level of distribution. Current efforts toward promoting "Catch and Release" are accurate, but they must be accelerated to increase the distribution in order to protect Minnesota's fisheries resource.

The Rainy Lake Sport Fishing Club is encouraging anglers to "Catch and Release" large fish to enhance the fish population as they are the main source of reproduction.

B. Reports from the DNR over the past two years shows an increase in the walleye populations. Final results of these efforts will be studied by the DNR in the year 2000.

C. Budget

Table 1.

July 1995-1997 Prior Expenditures on this Project	July 1997-1999 Proposed Expenditures on this Project	July 1999-2001 Future Expenditures on this Project
LCMR - 0 -	\$20,000	\$20,000*
Other		
State \$ 2,500	- 0 -	- 0 -
Non-State		
Cash \$16,000	\$10,000	\$10,000*
<hr/> Total: \$18,500	<hr/> \$30,000	<hr/> \$30,000*

- * Given the success of the program, the Rainy Lake Sport Fishing Club will continue to request \$20,000 from the LCMR on a biennial basis to perpetuate the " Catch and Release" program to ensure the stabilization of the walleye population in the E-Border Lakes.

Table 2.

PERSONNEL:	-0-	
EQUIPMENT:	-0-	
ACQUISITION:	-0-	
DEVELOPMENT:	-0-	
OTHER:	\$30,000	Hats, rulers, advertising and educational materials
TOTAL:	\$30,000	

VII. COOPERATION: Not Applicable

VIII. LOCATION: E-Border Lakes (see attached map)

IX. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS;

January 15, 1998
June 15, 1998
January 15, 1999
June 15, 1999

X. RESEARCH: Not Applicable