

**CHAPTER 9B—NATIONAL FISH HATCHERY  
SYSTEM ENHANCEMENT**

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**§ 760aa. Findings and purposes**

**(a) Findings**

Congress finds the following:

(1) The National Fish Hatchery System (in this chapter referred to as the “System”)—

(A) consists of more than 60 hatcheries, seven fish technology centers, 9 fish health centers, and other fisheries program offices;

(B) plays an integral role in the recovery of more than 50 threatened species and endangered species and the restoration of over 100 native species;

(C) provides healthy fish populations that support recreational fishing opportunities, many of which are related to Federal water control structures; and

(D) works with over 250 partners to help mitigate the impacts of aquatic habitat loss and invasive species.

(2) The System faces many challenges, including aging facilities, some of which date back to the late 1800s, and maintenance of intensive infrastructures such as wells, pumps, valves, pipes, filters, heaters, chillers, and treatment systems that must keep clean water moving 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

(3) By encouraging volunteer programs and donations and fostering non-Federal partnerships with hatchery facilities, Federal funding for the hatcheries can be supplemented.

(4) By encouraging hatchery educational programs, public awareness of the resources of the System and public participation in the conservation of aquatic resources can be promoted.

**(b) Purposes**

The purposes of this chapter are the following:

(1) To encourage the use of volunteers to assist the United States Fish and Wildlife Service in the management of hatcheries within the System.

(2) To facilitate partnerships between the System and non-Federal entities to promote public awareness of the resources of the System and public participation in the conservation of those resources.

(3) To encourage donations and other contributions by individuals and organizations to the System.

(Pub. L. 109-360, § 2, Oct. 16, 2006, 120 Stat. 2058.)

**SHORT TITLE**

Pub. L. 109-360, § 1, Oct. 16, 2006, 120 Stat. 2058, provided that: “This Act [enacting this chapter] may be cited as the ‘National Fish Hatchery System Volunteer Act of 2006.’”

**§ 760aa-1. Gifts to system and particular national fish hatcheries**

**(a) Authorization of gifts, devises, and bequests for system**

In furtherance of the purposes of this chapter, the Secretary of the Interior may accept any gifts, devises, or bequests of real and personal property, or proceeds therefrom, or interests therein, for the benefit of the National Fish Hatchery System. Such acceptance may be subject to the terms of any restrictive or affirmative covenant, or condition of servitude, if such terms are deemed by the Secretary to be in accordance with law and compatible with the purpose for which acceptance is sought.

**(b) Use of gifts, devises, and bequests**

**(1) In general**

Any gifts and bequests of money and proceeds from the sales of other property received as gifts or bequests pursuant to this subsection shall be deposited in a separate account in the Treasury and may be expended without further appropriation by the Secretary for the benefit of the System programs administered by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

**(2) Gifts, devises, and bequests for particular facilities**

**(A) Disbursal**

Any gift, devise, or bequest made for the benefit of a facility of the System shall be disbursed only for the benefit of that facility and without further appropriations.

**(B) Matching**

Subject to the availability of appropriations and the requirements of the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (16 U.S.C. 661 et seq.) and other applicable law, the Secretary may provide funds to match gifts, devises, and bequests made for the benefit of a facility of the System. With respect to each gift, devise, or bequest, the amount of Federal funds may not exceed the amount (or, in the case of property or in-kind services, the fair market value) of the gift, devise, or bequest.

(Pub. L. 109-360, § 3, Oct. 16, 2006, 120 Stat. 2059.)

**REFERENCES IN TEXT**

The Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, referred to in subsec. (b)(2)(B), is act Mar. 10, 1934, ch. 55, 48 Stat. 401, as amended, which is classified generally to sections 661 to 666c of this title. For complete classification of this Act to the Code, see Short Title note set out under section 661 of this title and Tables.

**§ 760aa-2. Volunteer enhancement pilot projects**

**(a) In general**

Subject to the availability of appropriations, the Secretary of the Interior shall carry out a pilot project at 1 or more facilities of the System. Each pilot project shall provide for a volunteer coordinator for the hatchery facility. The volunteer coordinator shall be responsible for recruiting, training, and supervising volunteers. The volunteer coordinator may be responsible for assisting partner organizations in developing projects and programs under coopera-