

**Virginia Recreational Fishing Development Fund
Project Application**



<p>Name and Address of Applicant:</p> <p><i>The Newport News Rotary Club & Coastal Conservation Association</i> 125 Keith Road Newport News, VA 23606 c/o Rob Cowling</p>	<p>Principle Investigator:</p> <p>Project Location: James River Fishing Pier Newport News, Virginia</p>									
<p>Descriptive Title of Project:</p> <p>2014 Children's Fishing Clinic</p>										
<p>Project Summary:</p> <p>The objective of this project is to identify and educate disadvantaged children of Virginia by exposing and instructing them in the recreational aspects of saltwater fishing. The Newport News Rotary Club and The Coastal Conservation Association together will provide the general management of the event as well as the hands on fishing experience. Our intent is to educate approximately 250 disadvantaged youths on conservation ethics, local saltwater aquatic habitats and species, and the art and technique of saltwater fishing with the resultant expectation of lifelong knowledge and participation.</p> <p>The primary plan is to have each child and adult volunteer proceed through a series of educational stations (located at the entrance of the James River Fishing Pier), which increases their knowledge, and appreciation of our natural aquatic resources. Once the educational stations have been completed, a hands-on fishing experience follows supervised by the Coastal Conservation Association. Out on the James river Fishing Pier, children will be given a rod/reel, tackle as well as instruction on the safe and appropriate use of the equipment. Lunch is provided to the children and adult volunteers.</p>										
<p>Expected Benefits:</p> <p>The purpose of this project is to educate children as well as provide them tools that can be used again. Keeping the rods/reels by the children is expected to enhance recreational opportunities among the disadvantaged children as well as promote marine safety, environmental program involvement, and identification of edible and non-edible fish species.</p>										
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Project Proposal-Virginia Recreational Fishing Development Fund

2014 Children's Fishing Clinic

A. Need: A program for educating at-risk children in recreational opportunities which exist locally and yet are unexplored with the resultant expectation of lifelong knowledge and continued participation.

B. Objective: The objective of this project is to identify and educate at-risk children of the Virginia Peninsula by exposing and instructing them in the recreational aspects of saltwater fishing.

C. Expected Results or Benefits: As the purpose of this project is to educate children concerning conservation ethics, local saltwater aquatic habitats and species, and the art and technique of salt water angling; this project is expected to enhance recreational opportunities among the at-risk children as well as promote marine safety, environmental program involvement, and identification of edible and non-edible and non-edible fish species.

D. Approach: For the last **EIGHTEEN years (1996-2013)** the Children's Fishing Clinic was acclaimed as extremely successful (2013 event scheduled for 7/20/13, after submission date 6/15/13). The plan calls for each child and adult volunteer to proceed through a series of educational stations, where marine educational demonstrations will be done. The success of the past EIGHTEEN years is attributed to two primary factors, which occur simultaneously. They are:

- ❖ **The Newport News Rotary Club and the Coastal Conservation Association** together provides the general management of the event as well as the hands on fishing experience. The coordination and formation of a diversified committee is instrumental in identifying the needs and resultant solutions to a common Virginia problem. That is, educating at-risk children in recreational opportunities that exist locally and yet, are unexplored with the resultant expectation of lifelong knowledge and participation.

- ❖ Administration functions are jointly managed by the **Newport News Rotary Club and the Coastal Conservation Association**. The selection of the children is handled by the Newport News Parks, Recreation & Tourism. They coordinate with many different groups to select and arrange for children and adult chaperones. The day of the event, the two groups (Rotary & CCA) including about 175 volunteers, manage the registration and on site fishing instruction. Each child receives a rod & Reel, tackle, T-shirt, hat and a full lunch. The children will keep the equipment provided so they can continue fishing in the future.

Beyond the actual fishing experience, educational booths are set up in a manner that requires each participating child and adult volunteer to pass through them and stop for a presentation. A sample of the educational booths would be as follows:

- **Virginia Marine Resources Commission:** Lewis Gillingham, Director of the Virginia Saltwater Fishing Tournament, will display local bay species they may encounter.
- **US Navy Dive Team:** Some of the finest Navy divers will be on hand with a display of equipment used in their world. Kids get a chance to wear dive helmets and ask questions.
- **Peninsula Salt Water Sports Fisherman's Association:** Instruction before the kids get to the fishing area on how use the rods/reels with further instruction on pier one on one.

It is anticipated that the 2014 Children's Fishing Clinic be held similarly in nature as year's prior. **The request for funding from the Recreational License Fund is \$7,500.** The balance of funds will come from other community sources.

E. **Location:** The location of the event is the **James River Fishing Pier**, Newport News, VA. The pier is made available to us at **no charge**.

F. Estimated Cost:

<u>Item</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Equipment	275 rod/reels (tackle, bait, chum, etc)	\$5,300
Food	hot dogs/chips/water/condiments for 500+ people	\$1,300
Shirts/hats	500 shirts with logo & sponsors Hats for Pier Volunteers	\$4500
Rental Equipment	potties, tables/chairs, dumpster, Golf cars, etc. 80'x 40' City tent	\$1,500
Misc.	printing, postage, site supplies Office supplies, etc.	\$2,000
	Multi-Year Equipment/repairs	<u>\$1,000</u>
	Total Estimated Expenses	\$15,600
	Outside solicited contributions	<u>- \$ 8,100</u>
	Requested funds from Virginia Recreational Fishing Development Fund	\$7,500

Funding request is 48% of total budget

Per child funding from RFAB fund is \$30.00 each
(\$7,500/250 participants = \$30.00)