

WATERCRAFT SAFETY - PROMOTING SAFE COMMUNITIES

(No general fund dollars requested.)

Description of issue and how recommending the agency's request furthers the agency's mandates:

The primary purpose of our watercraft safety program (law enforcement and education) effort is to save lives by reducing boating accidents.

The Arizona Game and Fish Department law enforcement officers are responsible for patrolling the state's lakes and rivers, enforcing boating laws, protecting public safety, and investigating watercraft casualties.



The most recent survey (2015) indicates 3,455,589 boater use days, an increase of more than 20% since 2012. More than 88% of surveyed boaters indicated that they would like to see the same or more enforcement efforts to stop people who are boating impaired or recklessly.

Marine law enforcement activities take their toll on a boat's engine and hull platform.



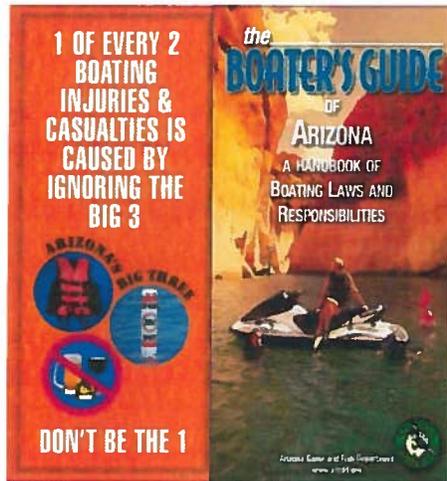
Patrol boats are subject to extreme conditions, such as being run aground during emergency responses or accident investigations, or beached while officers check fishing licenses. When patrol boats become unreliable, officers are unable to patrol and are unavailable for emergency responses.

There were at least five instances in FY2016 when patrol boats broke down and were unavailable for patrol. In one case, the patrol boat assigned to a particular lake was unavailable for the entire boating season.

Proposal:

A one-time budget increase of \$806,500 will replace eight patrol boats, refurbish three patrol boats, replace two ¾ ton crew cab pickup trucks, and provide \$50,000 for boating safety outreach pamphlets and \$20,000 for continued implementation of "Life Jacket Loaner Stations" throughout Arizona.





Life Jacket Loaner stations are designed to save lives. Stations are placed at launch ramps to allow the public to borrow a life jacket if they lack the required number for their passengers or they do not have the correct size, and return it after use.

Pamphlets that provide information to the public are a critical public safety tool. They explain and answer many questions about boating laws and safety. Without funding, this information would not be available for direct distribution to the public.

Performance measures to display the effects of the proposal:

Key Goal: Healthy People, Places & Resources

State Key Function: Championing the Health of People and Resources

Agency Key Function:

1. Setting health and natural resource policy
2. Promoting active and healthy people
3. Conserving resources for multiple benefits

Lead Measure:

- i. Hunting/fishing license sales

Mission Measures: Healthy Outcomes

- d. Parks and outdoor recreation

Key Goal: Safe Communities

State Key Function: Protecting Life and Property

Agency Key Function:

2. Enforcing laws
3. Deterring criminal activity
4. Protecting children and families
5. Providing law enforcement and fire services
8. Promoting safe workplaces
10. Ensuring safe travel

Lead Measure:

- e. Workplace safety
- f. Emergency response plans

Mission Measures: Public Safety Outcomes

- f. Injured workers
- g. Traffic fatalities
- h. Natural disaster emergency response



Key Goal: Efficient & Accountable Government

State Key Function: Accelerating Agency Performance

Agency Key Function:

6. Optimizing physical assets
7. Managing risks

Lead Measure:

- a. Employee productivity
- d. Speed of service
- e. Cost savings

Mission Measures: Improving Government Outcomes

- b. Service efficiency

Key Goal: Strong, Innovative Economy

State Key Function: Driving Economic Opportunity

Agency Key Function:

5. Strengthening Arizona's reputation

Lead Measure:

- e. Visitors

Mission Measures: Economic Outcomes

- g. Visitor spend

Department Scorecard and Measures

Agency Scorecard:

- Reduce the number of boat accidents
- Increase angler compliance rates

Operational Objectives:

- Decrease the annual number of boat accidents
- Decrease the number of alcohol- and drug-related boating accidents
- Increase compliance for required safety equipment
- Increase watercraft registration compliance
- Annually conduct one project focused on stopping the spread of aquatic invasive species

Alternatives considered and reasons for rejection:

Operate fewer boats – This will greatly reduce our on-the-water law enforcement presence, negatively impacting public safety.

Continued operation of older boats and vehicles - Higher costs to maintain, less safe to use for police work, reduced ability to patrol when and where needed for emergency response and public safety.

Not providing boater safety pamphlets and loaner life vests – This could lead to increased boating accidents and potential fatalities.

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Impact of not funding this fiscal year:

The current appropriation is insufficient to replace the boats in the Watercraft Fund motor pool. Placing officers with unreliable patrol boats on Arizona waterways will negatively impact officer safety, inhibit the ability to patrol and respond to emergencies, and fall short of the public's safety expectations. Decreased patrols and lack of emergency response capabilities create a less-safe recreational boating environment for everyone on Arizona's waterways.

Statutory reference:

A.R.S. Titles 5 directs the responsibility for law enforcement relating to the operation of watercraft to the Commission and Department.

A.R.S. § 5-311 directs the administration of law enforcement and boating safety programs on the state level to the Arizona Game and Fish Commission.

Equipment:

No additional boats requested, replacement boats only

Equipment No.	Amount	Description of Deficiencies
CG002	\$26,000	Boats are 16' deep keel boats. When recovering accident victims they have proved unstable, with a tendency to flip. Replace with flat bottom boats.
CG003	\$26,000	
CG004	\$26,000	
F4980 F4979	\$97,000 \$97,000	Boats have cracked welds, are structurally unsound and are unstable in choppy water; engines overheat.
F4976	\$97,000	Boat is unsafe due to design. U.S. Coast Guard advised about potential ejection of passengers.
F4994	\$92,000	Boat takes on water from the keel and has the potential to sink if bilge is not emptied daily. Mold damage is a health issue.
F4973	\$92,000	Boat unsafe due to design, increased maintenance and equipment needs.
F4988	\$50,000	Boat needs replacement motors per manufacturer's safety recommendations. Not a boat replacement but would extend life of boat.
F4977	\$ 8,000	Boat has fiberglass damage, requires gelcoat repair and new upholstery. Not a boat replacement but would extend life of boat.
F4987 F4982	\$ 6,000 \$ 6,000	Boats have fiberglass damage, require gelcoat repair and new upholstery. Not boat replacements but would extend life of boats.
FL202	\$58,000	Vehicle is unsafe at highway speeds due to front end issues; repairs have been made but alignment problems continue.
Total	\$681,000	

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Other operating:

\$50,000 Pamphlets
\$20,000 Life Jacket Loaner Stations

Classification of new positions:

No new Full Time employees are included in this budget request.

Budget Request:

Watercraft Fund \$751,000 one-time increase