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An act relating to vessel registration fees; amending s. 328.72, F.S.; specifying source of the county portion of vessel registration fees; providing for the return of certain vessel registration fees to the vessel owner's county of Florida residence; amending s. 328.76, F.S.; clarifying provisions relating to distribution and uses of funds in the Marine Resources Conservation Trust Fund; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Subsections (1) and (15) of section 328.72, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

328.72 Classification; registration; fees and charges; surcharge; disposition of fees; fines; marine turtle stickers.--

(1) VESSEL REGISTRATION FEE.--Vessels that are required to be registered shall be classified for registration purposes according to the following schedule, and the registration certificate fee shall be in the following amounts:

- Class A-1--Less than 12 feet in length, and all canoes to which propulsion motors have been attached, regardless of length.....\$3.50
- Class A-2--12 feet or more and less than 16 feet in length.....10.50
- (To county).....2.85

1	Class 1--16 feet or more and less than 26 feet in	
2	length.....	18.50
3	(To county).....	8.85
4	Class 2--26 feet or more and less than 40 feet in	
5	length.....	50.50
6	(To county).....	32.85
7	Class 3--40 feet or more and less than 65 feet in	
8	length.....	82.50
9	(To county).....	56.85
10	Class 4--65 feet or more and less than 110 feet in	
11	length.....	98.50
12	(To county).....	68.85
13	Class 5--110 feet or more in length.....	122.50
14	(To county).....	86.85
15	Dealer registration certificate.....	16.50

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17 The county portion of the vessel registration fee is derived

18 from recreational vessels only.

19 (15) DISTRIBUTION OF FEES.--Except for the first \$1,

20 which shall be remitted to the state for deposit into the Save

21 the Manatee Trust Fund created within the Fish and Wildlife

22 Conservation Commission, moneys designated for the use of the

23 counties, as specified in subsection (1), shall be distributed

24 by the tax collector to the board of county commissioners for

25 use as provided in this section. Such moneys to be returned to

26 the counties are for the sole purposes of providing

27 recreational channel marking and public launching facilities

28 and other boating-related activities, for removal of vessels

29 and floating structures deemed a hazard to public safety and

30 health for failure to comply with s. 327.53, and for manatee

31 and marine mammal protection and recovery.

1 Section 2. Subsection (1) of section 328.76, Florida
2 Statutes, is amended to read:

3 328.76 Marine Resources Conservation Trust Fund;
4 vessel registration funds; appropriation and distribution.--

5 (1) Except as otherwise specified in this subsection
6 and less \$1.4 million for any administrative costs which shall
7 be deposited in the Highway Safety Operating Trust Fund, in
8 each fiscal year beginning on or after July 1, 2001, all funds
9 collected from the registration of vessels through the
10 Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles and the tax
11 collectors of the state, except for those funds designated as
12 the county portion ~~for the use of the counties~~ pursuant to s.
13 328.72(1), shall be deposited in the Marine Resources
14 Conservation Trust Fund for recreational channel marking;
15 public launching facilities; law enforcement and quality
16 control programs; aquatic weed control; manatee protection,
17 recovery, rescue, rehabilitation, and release; and marine
18 mammal protection and recovery. The funds collected pursuant
19 to s. 328.72(1) shall be transferred as follows:

20 (a) In each fiscal year, an amount equal to \$1.50 for
21 each commercial and recreational vessel registered in this
22 state shall be transferred by the Department of Highway Safety
23 and Motor Vehicles to the Save the Manatee Trust Fund and
24 shall be used only for the purposes specified in s. 370.12(4).

25 (b) An amount equal to \$2 ~~Two dollars~~ from each
26 recreational noncommercial vessel registration fee, except
27 that for class A-1 vessels, shall be transferred by the
28 Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles to the
29 Invasive Plant Control Trust Fund in the Department of
30 Environmental Protection for aquatic weed research and
31 control.

1 (c) An amount equal to 40 ~~Forty~~ percent of the
2 registration fees from commercial vessels shall be transferred
3 by the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles to the
4 Invasive Plant Control Trust Fund in the Department of
5 Environmental Protection for aquatic plant research and
6 control.

7 (d) An amount equal to 40 ~~Forty~~ percent of the
8 registration fees from commercial vessels shall be transferred
9 by the Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles, on a
10 monthly basis, to the General Inspection Trust Fund of the
11 Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. These funds
12 shall be used for shellfish and aquaculture law enforcement
13 and quality control programs.

14 Section 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a
15 law.

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