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MARINE BOARD APPROVES NEW GRANTS FOR BOATING SAFETY PROJECTS

The Oregon State Marine Board recently approved six boating safety education projects from the new "Let's Go Boating" assistance program. Non-profit groups can apply for assistance each year if they provide a new, unique or innovative program that promotes safe boating and increases youth involvement in recreational boating. Assistance varies depending on the scope of the project and the funds available in the program. This is the first year of the "Let's Go Boating" assistance program, coordinated through the Education/Information section of the Marine Board, which can award up to \$25,000 per year.

tance program recipients include:

* U. S. Coast Guard Flotilla 51, Coos Bay: Project includes purchasing a customized cargo trailer for traveling to various boating and water safety venues within Coos County. Awarded \$7,792.

* Yachats Youth and Family Activities Program, Inc., Lincoln County. Project includes purchasing a chase boat to assist during U.S. Sailing classes. The chase boat will allow instructors to monitor, assist and rescue (if needed) sailing students during instruction. Awarded \$2,388.

Foundation, Douglas County. Project includes building, installing and maintaining a life jacket loaner kiosk at Diamond Lake, and three life jacket loaner kiosks at Galesville Reservoir, River Forks and Ben Irving parks. In addition, the Foundation will also provide loaner life jackets to kids during various fishing derby's (Cooper Creek Reservoir Derby Kids Day) so the children can participate (all children 12 and under are required to wear a properly fitting, Coast Guard-approved life jacket when in an open boat). The program promotes boating and water-related activities and supports efforts to restore fishery resources within the Umpqua basin. Awarded \$7,500.

The local 2007-2008 assis-

* Joe Merchep Umpqua River

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The purpose of the "Let's Go Boating" assistance program is to help introduce children to the excitement and adventure of boating while helping local groups promote boating and water safety in their communities.

For more information about the "Let's Go Boating" Assistance Program, visit www.boa-oregon.com.

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