What is the Inland Waterways Trust Fund?

The Inland Waterways Trust Fund was established to help underwrite the costs of construction and major rehabilitation of the nation’s inland waterway system. Funds are generated via the Inland Waterways Tax – a $0.29 per gallon assessment on diesel fuel used on 27 stretches of the country’s inland waterway system. The 12,000 miles of fuel taxed waters include most of the nation’s largest rivers: the Mississippi, Ohio, Illinois, the lower Missouri, and the Gulf and Atlantic Intracoastal waterways.

The fund annually generates approximately $110 - $120 million per year via the Inland Waterways Tax. These funds are, in turn, matched with revenue from the U.S. Treasury. The total $220 - $240 million is directed toward construction and major rehabilitation projects. The U.S. Treasury assumes 100 percent of the costs of operations and maintenance.