



National Fish Habitat Action Plan Revision

Gary E. Whelan
NFHP Board SDC Science and Data
Committee Co-Chair

AFWA Annual Meeting
September 2019





Plan Revision Strategy

- **Revise selected sections and update out-of-date statistics. Focus on the following sections:**
 - Mission
 - Goals
 - Objectives
 - Roles of the Board, FHPs, Science and Data, and Communications
 - Update supporting language and FHP vignettes



Summarized Results

Yes	No	Number
10	0	4
9	1	13
8	2	14
7	3	8
6	4	4
6	3	1
5	5	2



Plan Consensus Components (10-0)

- **Action Plan Commitments**
 - “NFHP will create an annual workplan that includes performance measures tied to the Action Plan.”
 - “Encourage and promote regional habitat planning guided by best information and science.”
 - “Promote objective and consistent assessment of projects to identify and replicate best practices.”
 - “Maintain a Board to promote, oversee, and coordinate implementation of the Action Plan including coordination with other initiatives.”
- **Recommend Board approval to include these in Plan revision**



Plan Goals

- **Action Plan Goal 1 (8-2)**
 - "Protect and maintain intact and healthy aquatic systems"
 - **Comments/Edits**
 - Conserve intact and healthy aquatic and marine systems.
 - Protect, maintain, and restore ..." or "Protect, maintain, and conserve ..."
 - Recommendation – Accept minor GEW edit
 - "Protect, maintain, and conserve all intact and healthy aquatic systems."



Plan Goals

- **Action Plan Goal 2 (8-2)**
 - **"Prevent further degradation of fish habitats that have been adversely affected"**
 - **Comments/Edits**
 - **"Prevent further degradation of, and restore, fish habitats that have been adversely affected"**
 - If we have "maintain" in the goal statement above, how is this much different? Fish habitat is one component of a healthy aquatic ecosystem. There appears to be a great deal of overlap between Goal 1 and Goal 2.
 - Recommendation – Accept edit with minor GEW change **"Prevent further degradation of, and rehabilitate, fish habitats that have been adversely affected"**



Plan Goals

- **Action Plan Goal 3 (7-3)**
 - **"Reverse declines in the quality and quantity of aquatic habitats to improve the overall health of fish and other aquatic organisms"**
 - **Comments/Edits**
 - Reverse declines in the quality and quantity of aquatic and marine habitats to enhance or restore the overall health of fish and the ecosystems in which they live.
 - Maybe something about humans as well?
 - Reverse declines in the quality and quantity of aquatic habitats to improve the health and population status of fish and other aquatic organisms
 - Rather than "Reverse declines" why not state "Increase the quality and quantity of aquatic habitats to ..." I get that we want to halt declines and see quality and quantity of aquatic habitat trend in a positive direction. My suggested edit gets at the intent of this goal statement in a more positive manner.



Plan Goals

- **Action Plan Goal 3 (7-3)**
 - "Reverse declines in the quality and quantity of aquatic habitats to improve the overall health of fish and other aquatic organisms"
 - Recommendation – Board consider three options
 - " **Increase the quality and quantity of all aquatic habitats to enhance or rehabilitate the overall health of fish and other aquatic organisms in which they live.**"
 - "Reverse declines in the quality and quantity of aquatic **and marine habitats to enhance or restore the overall health of fish and the ecosystems in which they live.**"



Plan Goals

- **Action Plan Goal 4 (8-2)**
 - "Increase the quality and quantity of **all** fish habitats that support a broad natural diversity of fish and other aquatic species."
 - **Comments/Edits**
 - "Increase the quality and quantity of fish habitats that support a broad natural diversity of fish and other aquatic and marine species."
 - Too much overlap with Goal 3. I suggest blending these together.
 - **Recommendation – Board consider merging goals if Goal 3 is altered or include minor GEW edit.**



Plan Objectives

- **Action Plan Objective 1 (8-2)**
 - "Achieve measurable habitat conservation results through strategic actions of FHPs that improve ecological condition, restore natural processes, or prevent the decline of intact and **healthy** systems to better fish habitat conditions and increased fishing opportunities."
 - **Comments/Edits**
 - **Change health to healthy**
 - "Achieve measurable habitat conservation results through strategic actions of FHPs that improve ecological condition, restore natural processes, or prevent the decline of intact and healthy systems **to improve** fish habitat conditions and increase fishing opportunities."



Plan Objectives

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 - "Achieve measurable habitat conservation results through strategic actions of FHPs that improve ecological condition, restore natural processes, or prevent the decline of intact and **healthy** systems to better fish habitat conditions and increased fishing opportunities."
 - **Comments/Edits**
 - Achieve measurable habitat conservation results through the strategic actions of FHPs that improve ecological conditions, restore natural processes, and/or prevent the decline of healthy and intact ecosystems to improve fish habitat conditions and increase fishing opportunities.
 - I like it. That said, this is so broad that implementing it consistently across all FHPs with consistent metrics will be challenging.



Plan Objectives

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 - "Achieve measurable habitat conservation results through strategic actions of FHPs that improve ecological condition, restore natural processes, or prevent the decline of intact and **healthy** systems to better fish habitat conditions and increased fishing opportunities."
 - **Comments/Edits**
 - "Achieve measurable habitat conservation results through the strategic actions of FHPs that improve ecological conditions, restore natural processes, **and/or** prevent the decline of healthy and intact ecosystems to improve fish habitat conditions and increase fishing opportunities."
 - So broad that implementing it consistently across all FHPs with consistent metrics will be challenging.



Plan Objectives

- **Action Plan Objective 1 (8-2)**
 - "Achieve measurable habitat conservation results through strategic actions of FHPs that improve ecological condition, restore natural processes, or prevent the decline of intact and **healthy** systems to better fish habitat conditions and increased fishing opportunities."
 - **Comments/Edits**
 - Has NFHP ever considered or discussed the potential for the Partnership to use common reporting measures or metrics? Using a common measure or metric could improve the Partnership's ability to communicate to a variety of audiences the cumulative impact of our efforts by having measures that could be rolled up from individual Fish Habitat Partnerships and reported at the National level. It could be worth trying to repurpose many of the already reported measures to roll up something to the National level.



Plan Objectives

- **Action Plan Objective 1 (8-2)**
 - "Achieve measurable habitat conservation results through strategic actions of FHPs that improve ecological condition, restore natural processes, or prevent the decline of intact and **healthy** systems to **improve** fish habitat conditions and increased fishing opportunities."
 - Recommendation – Accept minor edits



Plan Objectives

- **Action Plan Objective 2 (9-1)**
 - **"Establish a consensus set of national conservation strategies as a framework to guide future actions and investment by FHPs."**
 - **Comments/Edits**
 - **It's too vague and will mean many things to many people.**
 - **Recommendation – Accept with more specifics in commitments**



Plan Objectives

- **Action Plan Objective 3 (8-2)**
 - "Broaden the community of support for fish habitat conservation by increasing fishing opportunities, fostering the participation of local communities - especially young people - conservation activities, and raising public awareness of the role healthy fish habitats play in the quality of life and economic well-being of local communities."
 - **Comments/Edits**
 - It needs to be pared down. How about: "Broaden the community of support and raise public awareness for fish habitat conservation by ..."
 - "Broaden the community of support for fish habitat conservation by increasing fishing opportunities, fostering the participation of local communities (especially young people) in conservation activities, and raising public awareness of the role healthy fish habitats play in the quality of life and economic well-being of local communities."



Plan Objectives

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 - "Broaden the community of support for fish habitat conservation by increasing fishing opportunities, fostering the participation of local communities - especially young people - conservation activities, and raising public awareness of the role healthy fish habitats play in the quality of life and economic well-being of local communities."
 - Recommendation – Board accept "Broaden the community of support for fish habitat conservation by increasing fishing opportunities, fostering the participation of local communities **(especially young people)** in conservation activities, and raising public awareness of the role healthy fish habitats play in the quality of life and economic well-being of local communities."



Plan Objectives

- **Action Plan Objective 4 (8-2)**
 - **Comments/Edits**
 - It needs to be pared down. How about: "Broaden the community of support and raise public awareness for fish habitat conservation by ..."
 - "Broaden the community of support for fish habitat conservation by increasing fishing opportunities, fostering the participation of local communities (especially young people) in conservation activities, and raising public awareness of the role healthy fish habitats play in the quality of life and economic well-being of local communities."



Plan Objectives

- **Action Plan Objective 4 (6-4)**
 - "Fill gaps in the National Fish Habitat Assessment and its associated database to empower strategic conservation action supported by broadly available scientific information, and integrate socio-economic data in the analysis to improve people's lives in a manner consistent with fish habitat conservation goals."
 - **Comments/Edits**
 - I like the first part, but am not sure how integrating socio-economic data in the analysis will improve people's lives. The later part of this commitment statement needs refinement.
 - Might add that in the future may need to do another assessment.
 - I would like to see the actual gaps described in the Objective. We don't have much for lentic waters.



Plan Objectives

- **Action Plan Objective 4 (6-4)**
 - "Fill gaps in the National Fish Habitat Assessment and its associated database to empower strategic conservation action supported by broadly available scientific information, and integrate socio-economic data in the analysis to improve people's lives in a manner consistent with fish habitat conservation goals."
 - **Comments/Edits**
 - "Complete fish habitat assessments within the boundaries of each Fish Habitat Partnership in order to 1) describe status and trends of fish habitats, 2) identify threats to fish habitats, 3) identify fish habitat conservation needs, and 4) prioritize fish habitat conservation activities. Integrate socioeconomic data in these assessments to improve people's lives in a manner consistent with fish habitat conservation goals."



Plan Objectives

- **Action Plan Objective 4 (6-4)**
 - "Fill gaps in the National Fish Habitat Assessment and its associated database to empower strategic conservation action supported by broadly available scientific information, and integrate socio-economic data in the analysis to improve people's lives in a manner consistent with fish habitat conservation goals."
 - **Comments/Edits**
 - The wording of Objective 4 (aka "fill gaps") is not compelling, especially to an outside audience, and relies on reader's understanding of the National Fish Habitat Assessment. The second part of the objective is the most important part and should be moved to the front of the objective.



Plan Objectives

- **Action Plan Objective 4 (6-4)**
 - "Fill gaps in the National Fish Habitat Assessment and its associated database to empower strategic conservation action supported by broadly available scientific information, and integrate socio-economic data in the analysis to improve people's lives in a manner consistent with fish habitat conservation goals."
 - **Comments/Edits**
 - "Empower strategic conservation actions that are supported by broadly available scientific information and integrate socio-economic data in the analysis to improve people's lives in a manner consistent with fish habitat conservation goals. This could include expansion of data available for application via the National Fish Habitat Assessment and its associated database."



Plan Objectives

- **Action Plan Objective 4 (6-4)**
 - "Fill gaps in the National Fish Habitat Assessment and its associated database to empower strategic conservation action supported by broadly available scientific information, and integrate socio-economic data in the analysis to improve people's lives in a manner consistent with fish habitat conservation goals."
 - Recommendation – Board review options on language



Plan Objectives

- **Action Plan Objective 5 (8-2)**
 - **"Communicate the conservation outcomes produced collectively by FHPs, as well as new opportunities and voluntary approaches for conserving fish habitat, to the public and conservation planners."**
 - **Comments/Edits**
 - **Add "... to the public, ELECTED OFFICIALS, and conservation planners and MANAGERS.**
 - **Specifically mentioning NGOs that have a stake in the effort.**
 - **Recommendation – Accept minor edit**
 - **"Communicate the conservation outcomes produced collectively by FHPs, as well as new opportunities and voluntary approaches for conserving fish habitat, to the public and conservation **planners and managers.**"**



Revision Schedule

- June 2019 – Board approved strategy
- September/October 2019
 - Surveying Board on needed changes
- October Board Meeting
 - Action Plan review and revision
- March Board Meeting
 - Action Plan review and revision
- Plan completion – June/October 2020



Thank You!

Gary E. Whelan

Michigan DNR

whelang@michigan.gov

517-284-5840



Visit www.fishhabitat.org
for more information





Plan Objectives

- **Action Plan Objective 1 Commitment 1 (7-3)**
 - **"FHPs will focus existing and new resources to increase effectiveness in achieving long-term sustainable results."**
 - **Comments/Edits**
 - **"FHPs will focus existing and new resources to effectively achieve long-term sustainable results."**
 - The prior statement says FHPs will increase effectiveness in achieving long-term sustainable results. It is unclear what the baseline is or what they are being compared to so recommend taking out "increase effectiveness" as it is a relative term.
 - Should add long-term sustainable results for ???
 - **"FHPs will focus existing and new resources on actions having the potential to increase effectiveness in achieving long-term sustainable results."**



Plan Objectives

- **Action Plan Objective 1 Commitment 1 (7-3)**
 - "FHPs will focus existing and new resources to increase effectiveness in achieving long-term sustainable results."
 - **Recommendation – Accept revised version**
 - "FHPs will focus existing and new resources to effectively achieve long-term sustainable results."



Plan Objectives

- **Action Plan Objective 1 Commitment 2 (7-3)**
 - **"NFHP emphasizes strategic project selection based on sound science and data."**
 - **Comments/Edits**
 - **"NFHP emphasizes taking conservation actions based on strategic priorities and sound science"**
 - **"NFHP emphasizes strategic project selection based on sound science, data and collaboration"**
 - **What does sound science really mean? Seems we've adopted the phrase "best available science" within the profession more recently and let go of the old phrase - "sound science."**
 - **Recommendation – Board accept "NFHP emphasizes taking conservation actions based on strategic priorities and best available science."**



Plan Objectives

- **Action Plan Objective 1 Commitment 3 (7-3)**
 - **"NFHP will focus on measurable results to ensure conservation efforts are both effective and efficient."**
 - **Comments/Edits**
 - "NFHP will focus on conservation actions that produce measurable results and benefits to fish and people."
 - "NFHP will focus on obtaining measurable results to ensure habitat conservation efforts are both effective and efficient."
- **Recommendation – Board accept "NFHP emphasizes taking conservation actions based on strategic priorities and best available science."**



Plan Near-Consensus Components (9-1)

- **Action Plan Objective 2**
 - "Establish a consensus set of national conservation strategies as a framework to guide future actions and investment by FHPs."
 - Comment/Edit – Too vague
 - Recommendation – Keep as written
- **Action Plan Objective 3 Commitment**
 - "NFHP will educate **Americans the public** about how everyday activities affect fish and their habitats."
 - Comment/Edit – “the public” for Americans
 - Recommendation – Accept edit



Plan Near-Consensus Components (9-1)

- **Action Plan Objective 5 Commitment**
 - **"NFHP will use successful and cost-effective strategies to raise awareness of how FHP projects benefit communities."**
 - **Comment/Edit – Extra unneeded language on strategies**
 - **"NFHP will raise public awareness of how FHP projects benefit communities."**
 - **Recommendation – Consider edit**



Plan Near-Consensus Components (9-1)

- **Action Plan Objective 5 Commitment**
 - "NFHP will build support for voluntary community-based conservation."
 - **Comment/Edit – Simplify**
 - "NFHP supports voluntary community-based conservation and will assist as appropriate."
 - **Recommendation – Consider edit**



Plan Near-Consensus Components (9-1)

- **Action Plan Objective 5 Commitment**
 - **“NFHP will promote objective, consistent practices and lessons learned.”**
 - **Comment/Edit – Learn from whom?**
 - **“NFHP will promote objective, consistent practices and lessons learned from FHP actions across the Partnership.”**
 - **Recommendation – Accept GEW edit**



Plan Near-Consensus Components (9-1)

- **Action Plan Commitment**
 - **“FHPs engage a wide range of partners to protect, restore, and enhance fish habitats.”**
 - **Comment/Edit – Missing verb**
 - **“FHPs should/shall engage a wide range of partners to protect, restore, and enhance fish habitats.”**
 - **Recommendation – Accept GEW edit with selection**



Plan Near-Consensus Components (9-1)

- **Action Plan Commitment**
 - **“NFHP supports FHPs in identifying strategic priorities, developing action plans and conservation strategies, and achieving results.”**
 - **Comment/Edit – Is NFHP an entity separate from FHPs? Aren’t FHPs part of the NFHP?**
 - **“Support FHPs in identifying strategic priorities, developing action plans and conservation strategies, and achieving results.”**
 - **“NFHP Board supports FHPs in identifying strategic priorities, developing action plans and conservation strategies, and achieving results.”**
 - **Recommendation – Accept one of the edits**



Plan Near-Consensus Components (9-1)

- **Action Plan Commitment**
 - “NFHP **to** provide science-based methods and tools to help **regional partnerships** measure and demonstrate progress.”
 - **Comment/Edit – Minor Edits**
 - “NFHP provides science-based methods and tools to help FHPs measure and demonstrate progress.”
 - **Recommendation – Accept minor edits**



Plan Near-Consensus Components (9-1)

- **Action Plan Commitment**
 - “Build strong grassroots support **that places** fish habitat conservation higher on the public agenda and enlists new contributions from the private sector.”
 - **Comment/Edit – Minor edit**
 - “Build strong grassroots support to place fish habitat conservation higher on the public agenda and enlists new contributions from the private sector.”
 - **Recommendation – Accept minor edit**



Plan Near-Consensus Components (9-1)

- **Action Plan Commitment**
 - “Partners will bring new and sustained attention to the need for action and will mobilize diverse stakeholder groups as advocates.”
 - **Comments/Edits – For what?, Leave in the list of Partners**
 - “Partners will bring new and sustained attention to the need for action and will mobilize diverse stakeholder groups as advocates **for fish habitat.**”
 - **Recommendation – Accept with minor GEW edit**



Plan Near-Consensus Components (9-1)

- **Action Plan Commitment**
 - **“Enhance existing data networks used by partners.”**
 - **Comments/Edits – Data networks unclear**
 - **“Enhance existing fish habitat data and supporting networks used by all parts of NFHP.”**
 - **Recommendation – Accept GEW edit**



Plan Near-Consensus Components (9-1)

- **Action Plan Commitment**
 - “Assist FHPs in developing baselines, indicators, and measures of success.”
 - **Comments/Edits – For?**
 - “Assist FHPs in developing baselines, indicators, and measures of **project and program success.**”
 - **Recommendation – Accept GEW edit**



Plan Near-Consensus Components (9-1)

- **Action Plan Commitment**
 - **“Communicate project results and lessons learned.”**
 - **Comments/Edits – Need a why, Recommend defining our objectives and desired outcomes with these communication efforts.**
 - **“Communicate each FHP’s project results and lessons learned to improve future performance.”**
 - **Recommendation – Consider GEW edit**



Thank You!

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