

National Fish Habitat
Conservation Through
Partnerships Act

Legislative Working Group

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- Ed Schriever – Board Chair
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Dear _____,

Congress has recently passed the “National Fish Habitat Conservation Through Partnerships Act” to encourage partnerships among public agencies, non-governmental organizations, and other interested persons to promote fish habitat conservation. The legislation outlines and directs the manner that the National Fish Habitat Board will operate going forward and prescribes the new composition of the Board. The main changes to the Board will be the addition of representatives from new interest sectors.

Your current member is _____. Would you like to continue to have _____ represent your group on the National Fish Habitat Board, or do you desire to make a change at this time?

Your prompt response is greatly appreciated due to timing constraints included in the legislation.

Sincerely,

Name

Title

Transition Guidance Draft

- The following is the suggested guidance from the existing NFHP Board related to the reestablishment of the Board following enactment of the “National Fish Habitat Conservation Through Partnerships Act”.
- The Board will be composed of 25 members as identified in the legislation.
- The NFHP Charter will be used as the primary reference to supplement and refine the basic language in the legislation.
- The Initial Board for the transition shall consist of representatives from:
 - (1) 1 representative of the Department of the Interior;
 - (2) 1 representative of the US Geological Survey;
 - (3) 1 representative of the Department of Commerce;
 - (4) 1 representative of the Department of Agriculture;
 - (5) 1 representative of the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (AFWA);
 - (6) 4 shall be representatives of State agencies, 1 of whom shall be nominated by a regional association of fish and wildlife agencies from each of the northeast, southeast, midwest and western regions of the US.
- The transitional chairperson will be the representative of AFWA.
- Within 60 days of enactment of the Act, the representatives of the initial Board shall ensure that the remaining members of the Board are appointed.

The first duty of the Initial Board shall be to reinstall the Chair and Vice Chair positions, who will then preside over the Initial Board. The original board seats will be appointed by either reseating the Board members who were in place at the time of enactment, where appropriate, or identifying and nominating new Board members for the original seats. In some cases where an original Board seat represented several groups, e.g. commercial fishing, a letter will be sent to the member groups to either confirm the reappointment of their existing representative, or provide the opportunity to name a new representative. Not later than 60 days after enactment the Secretary shall provide to the Board not fewer than 3 Tribal representatives, from which the Board shall appoint 1 representative.

Once the original Board seats have been seated, this group will gather nominations for the newly created Board seats resulting from enactment of the Act and elect the new Board members to those seats. The newly created Board positions resulting from enactment shall be:

- 1 representative of a national private landowner organization;
- 1 representative of an agricultural production organization;
- 1 representative of local government interests involved in fish habitat restoration;
- 2 representatives from different sectors of corporate industries, which may include—
 - (i) natural resource commodity interests, such as petroleum or mineral extraction;
 - (ii) natural resource user industries; and
 - (iii) industries with an interest in fish and fish habitat conservation; and
- 1 leadership private sector or landowner representative of an active partnership.