

June 2025



Policy Committee Update

FISHHABITAT.ORG

FHP Policy Committee Updates

- Policy Advocacy Guidance Document
 - Received questions about how/if FHPs should advocate for policies
 - In response: created a best practices document for FHPs
 - See **Tab 6 of Board Book** for document

FHP Policy Committee Updates

- FY26 Appropriation Request Letters
 - Letters submitted by AFWA on behalf of NFHP to staff on House and Senate Appropriation Subcommittees
 - Requested full funding for NFHP, including technical support
 - \$8.8 million (\$7.2 for projects, board, operations; \$1.6 tech support for USGS, USFS, EPA, FWS)
 - PA Fish and Boat Commission submitted an appropriations request on behalf of NFHP to Rep. Reschenthaler after an in-person meeting

Virtual Congressional Office Visits

- In April 2025, met virtually with 10 offices
- 6 FHP coordinators and Steering Committee members participated
- Meetings went well, many of the staffers had little to no prior knowledge about NFHP and greatly enjoyed hearing about projects in their districts and states.
- Every office was receptive to our appropriations ask and said they would be supportive of raising NFHP funding to the full authorized funding level of \$7.2 million.

Virtual Congressional Office Visits

- Senator John Boozman (AR), Leg. Correspondent Ben Campbell and Leg. Assistant Andrew Kelley
 - Todd Ewing, Southeast Aquatic Resources Partnership, Coordinator
- Senator Lindsay Graham (SC), Leg. Assistant Ryan Mowrey
 - Todd Ewing, Southeast Aquatic Resources Partnership, Coordinator
- Representative Steve Womack (AR–3), Leg. Assistant Naomi Walker
 - Todd Ewing, Southeast Aquatic Resources Partnership, Coordinator

Virtual Congressional Office Visits

- Representative Mike Levin (CA-49), Senior Leg. Assistant Amanda Shafer
 - Sandi Jacobson, CA Fish Passage Forum, Governance Committee
- Representative Ken Calvert (CA-41), Leg. Director Jack Lincoln
 - Sandi Jacobson, CA Fish Passage Forum, Governance Committee
- Representative Ashley Hinson (IA-2), Leg. Correspondent Will Grant Taylor
 - Sara Strassman, Driftless Area Restoration Effort
- Senator Jeff Merkley (OR), Leg. Correspondent Kat Abrams
 - Joan Drinkwin, Pacific Marine and Estuarine Partnership

Virtual Congressional Office Visits

- Senator Katie Britt (AL), Leg. Aide John Henry Woods
 - Doug Nygren, Reservoir Fisheries Habitat Partnership*
- Representative Mike Simpson (ID-2), Leg. Director Reilly Lamp
 - Doug Nygren, Reservoir Fisheries Habitat Partnership*
- Senator Tammy Baldwin (WI), Leg. Aide Melanie Ezrin and Appropriations Director Sydney Scott
 - Kahya Fox, Fishers and Farmers Partnership, Steering Committee

* Unable to attend due to scheduling conflicts, attended on their behalf by ASA's Mike Leonard and Theresa Weber