



NATIONAL
**FISH
HABITAT**
PARTNERSHIP

Board Meeting Book

**February 6, 2024
Virtual (ZOOM MEETING)**

National Fish Habitat Board Virtual Meeting

Tuesday, February 6, 2024 (1:00 PM – 4:00 PM) EST

Zoom link (Registration Required):

https://fishwildlife-org.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZltf-Cgqz8tE9JEfO2obn3_WzpbQPDHsvG

Time (PM ET)	Agenda Item	Board Tab	Lead(s)
1:00	<p>Welcome & Attendance <i>Desired outcomes:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome Board members and new FHP Coordinators. • Board action to approve the February meeting agenda. • Board action to approve the December meeting summary. 	Tab 1	Robert Boyles (<i>Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, Board Chair</i>) & Board Staff
1:10	<p>Board Reminders & Board Member Terms <i>Desired outcomes:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board awareness of NFHP 2024 calendar including upcoming meetings and FHP meetings. • Board awareness of expiring Tribal Board member terms and need to solicit nominations from Secretary of the Interior. 		Ryan Roberts (<i>AFWA, Board Staff</i>)
1:15	<p>Election of Board Vice-Chair <i>Desired outcome:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board action <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board will break into executive session for discussion if necessary 		Robert Boyles (<i>Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, Board Chair</i>) & Board Staff

Time (PM ET)	Agenda Item	Board Tab	Lead(s)
1:25	<p>Update on Congressional Designation Process for Fish Habitat Partnerships</p> <p><i>Desired outcome:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board awareness of the progress being made, and upcoming tasks related to Congressional designation to fulfill the mandate in Section 204 of the ACE Act. 		<p>Stan Allen (NFHP Partnerships Committee Co-Chair, Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission) & Bryan Moore (NFHP Partnerships Committee Co-Chair, Trout Unlimited)</p>
1:35	<p>Board Vote on Four Vacant Seats</p> <p><i>Desired outcome:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board awareness of vacant seats and process for voting • Board will break into executive session for discussion. • Board will vote to select new Board members to fill the vacant seats. 	Tab 2	Robert Boyles (Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, Board Chair)
2:50-3:00	BREAK		
3:00	<p>Board Committee Updates</p> <p>Policy Committee</p> <p><i>Desired outcomes:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board awareness of Policy Committee activities surrounding ACE Act reauthorization. • Board awareness of Federal agency responses to the letter requesting information on technical and scientific assistance relative to Sections 206 and 212 of the ACE Act. 		Tim Schaeffer (PA Fish & Boat Commission, NFHP Policy Committee Chair)

Time (PM ET)	Agenda Item	Board Tab	Lead(s)
3:30	<p>Communications Committee</p> <p><i>Desired outcomes:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board awareness of 2024 Committee Priorities • Board Discussion regarding NFHP Reports 	Tab 3	John LeCoq (<i>Fishpond, NFHP Communications Committee Chair</i>)
3:45	<p>Governance Committee</p> <p><i>Desired outcomes:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board awareness and input on the Committee's next priorities. 	Tab 4	Doug Austen (<i>AFS, NFHP Governance Committee Chair</i>)
4:00	Adjourn		

National Fish Habitat Board Meeting

Wednesday, December 6, 2023 (9:00 AM – 5:00 PM) EST

Charleston, SC

Board Members

	Last Name	First Name	Present?
1	Allen	Stan	X
2	Austen	Doug	X
3	Booth/Batten	Austin/Ben	X
4	Boyles	Robert	X
5	Carter	Julie	X
6	Eischeid	Ted	X
7	Gilliland	Gene	X
8	Guertin/ Jacobson	Steve/ Rick	X
9	Conley/ Wilson	Kimberly/ Josh	X
10	Kinsinger	Anne	X
11	Kruse	Carter	X
12	LeCoq	John	X
13	Leonard/ Bevan	Mike/Connor	X
14	Linnell	Karen	-
15	Moore	Chris	X
16	Moore	Bryan	X
17	Perry	Steve	X
18	Plumer/ Nakayama	Christy/ Ian	X
19	Rauch	Sam	X
20	Ringia	Adam	X
21	Rivers	Pat	X
22	Schaeffer	Timothy D.	X
23	Slager	Jake	X
24	Trushenski	Jesse	-

Other Attendees

- Jason Olive (NFHP Staff)
- Ryan Roberts (NFHP Staff)
- Jonathan Watson (NFHP Staff – on detail)
- Kate Sherman (NFHP Staff)
- Gary Whelan (NFHP Staff)
- Daniel Wieferich (NFHP Staff)
- Christopher Estes (CBE)
- Kelly Hepler (BtP)
- Lori Maloney (EBTJV)
- Therese Thompson (WNTI)
- Celeste Stout (NMFS)
- Doug Nygren (RFHP)
- Joe Nohner (MGLP)
- Melissa Smith (KPFHP)
- Todd Ewing (SARP)
- Holly Steindorf (CAFPF)
- Simen Kaalstad (ACFHP)
- Debbie Hart (SEAKFHP)
- Gordon Smith (HIFHP)
- Stacy Beough (Strategic by Nature)
- Trevor Luna (USFWS)

Board Actions Approved by Motion:

- 1. September 12, 2023 NFHP Board meeting summary** (with modifications):
Motion by: Chris Moore, Second by: Tim Schaeffer
- 2. December 6, 2023 NFHP Board meeting agenda:** Accepted by acclamation
- 3. FHP Operational Funds Cap Adjustment:** Motion by: Stan Allen, Second by Julie Carter
- 4. NFHP Board Bylaws:** Motion by: Doug Austen, Second by Pat Rivers
- 5. Reappointment of Board members:** See [final agenda item](#)

Meeting Notes:

12/5 Time (PM ET)	Agenda Item
1:00 – 5:00	Bi-partisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) Workshop. Opening remarks for afternoon session from Robert Boyles (SCDNR and Board Chair, National Fish Habitat Partnership). NFHP FHP Coordinators, NFHP Board Members attend.
5:30 – 7:00	NFHP Social Hour

12/6 Time (ET)	Agenda Item	Board Tab	Lead(s)
9:00 AM	Welcome, Introductions & Attendance <i>Desired outcomes:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Board action approve December 6 agenda.Board action approve September 12, 2023 draft meeting summary.	Tab 1	Robert Boyles (AFWA, Board Chair) & Board Staff

Kelsey Dick (Shimano) welcomed the Board and meeting attendees to the facility. Chairman Boyles welcomed the Board and thanked the staff and committee for their work since the past Board meeting. Chairman Boyles recognized Therese Thompson (Western Native Trout Initiative) for her many years of service to NFHP and presented her with a Kudo Board demonstrating her value to many facets of the enterprise. Chairman Boyles noted that the FHP’s are the “secret sauce” of NFHP and expressed his appreciation for all of the hard work of our FHP coordinators. Ted Eischeid recommended that the Board Meeting Summary for September 12, 2023 be amended to reflect his attendance before the group voted to approve the document. Ted also noted the importance of tracking virtual attendance, including late arrivals, at future Board meetings. The Board also approved the meeting agenda and noted those in attendance, including anticipated late arrivals and various Board member surrogates.

9:20 AM	Board Reminders & Board Member Terms <i>Desired outcomes:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board planning for 2024 NFHP calendar. • Board awareness of upcoming expiring Board terms and calendar for future Board member recruitment. 	Tab 2	Robert Boyles <i>(AFWA, Board Chair)</i> & Board Staff
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Chairman Boyles reviewed the proposed dates for the NFHP Board meetings in calendar year 2024. Proposed dates include: February 6 (virtual), April 30 – May 1 (In-person, likely in D.C.), July 31 – Aug 1 (In-person, location TBD). The Fall meeting date is in development and will be virtual.

Chairman Boyles also reviewed the upcoming expiring Board terms and the plan and timing for new Board member recruitment. He noted that nine Board member terms expire at the end of February next year and notified the board that three existing Board members (John LeCoq, Christy Plumer, Ted Eischeid) have indicated that they do not wish to serve another term. He also notified the Board that Amy Singler resigned from the Habitat Conservation seat due to changing job duties. The Board Staff will advertise vacant seats in the coming month and Chairman Boyles requested that Board members help to spread the word once the announcement goes out.

9:40 AM	Beyond the Pond Report Findings <i>Desired outcomes:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board awareness Beyond the Pond Report Findings • Board discussion on recommendation of future plans for Beyond the Pond 	Tab 3	Stacy Beaugh <i>(Strategic by Nature)</i> Kelly Hepler <i>(Beyond the Pond)</i>
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Kelly Hepler, the Board Chair for Beyond the Pond (BtP), opened the presentation reminding the Board that they had previously prompted him to present a clear vision for BtP to the NFHP Board. He then introduced Stacy Beaugh and thanked her for her efforts to develop the report. Stacey surveyed 38 members of the NFHP community and asked them about their perception of the Purpose, Leadership, Organization and Resources of BtP. The overarching finding was that FHPs have little capacity to fundraise and BtP could be leveraged to serve in this role. At the end of the presentation, Stacy provided several recommendations for BtP, including: (1) Invest in board-championed plan of action for BtP that illustrates key strategies; (2) Develop a diverse and active BtP Board; and (3) Hire a dedicated staff person to take on board development, fundraising, and other priorities. Further findings were presented and are detailed in the report. Finally, potential milestones and metric recommendations were presented in a figure.

During the discussion, Carter Kruse asked about next steps. Kelly reiterated that BtP needs to implement a plan and resume in-person meetings to revamp the board. Doug Austen asked about the potential to access and focus on funds from federal programs. Stacey noted that BtP could help FHPs aggregate projects, but reminded the Board that the report findings highlight a need for non-federal match and coordination efforts with FHPs. She acknowledged that BtP could have a number of initiatives, but recommend that BtP be judicious with the capacity they build because it takes time to build either function and different pathways

require different organizational structure and staff capabilities. Julie Carter asked about the resources required to create a paid position. Stacy reminded everyone that the first priorities are to establish a BtP Board action plan and further develop the Board to understand priorities and noted that there may currently be limited funds available for part time position. Bryan Moore noted that some federal funds do not require 1:1 non-federal match and suggested that while some FHPs cannot access federal funds directly, BtP could be a vehicle. He also requested that BtP come to the board with a specific operations plan. Tim Shaefer concluded the discussion section by recommending that NFHP should be open minded about the future for BtP.

10:20 AM

Science and Data Committee Update

Tab 4

Gary Whelan
(MI DNR, Retired)

Desired outcomes:

- **Board awareness** of options for National Fish Habitat Assessment
- **Board awareness** of project tracking database progress

Daniel Wieferich
(USGS)

Kate Sherman
(PSMFC)

Gary presented the three options for the approach to the National Fish Habitat Assessment and request Board member feedback. The three prospectuses were finalized and sent to the Board for review on November 27. They outlined specific tasks and the costs associated with those tasks and requested Board direction in December 2023. During the discussion, Gary verified that the base assessment will address known gaps including grazing intensity, timber harvest, hydrology, and socioeconomics. Tim Schaffer asked whether the lack of a formal definition of socioeconomic considerations in the ACE Act was a challenge and noted that it may be worth defining that element of these analyses more explicitly in reauthorization efforts. Julie Carter noted that, in the West, the 2015 habitat rankings were not always representative of actual condition. She suggested adding in drought, water withdrawal, wildfires, and other stressors to this analysis and noted that entities like the National Fire Center may have data easily available. Anne Kinsinger agreed with Julie's point and noted that drought will be very difficult to include due to long-term nature of that stressor and the lack of reference data. Anne also suggested that the Committee work to better understand the purpose and audience for the socioeconomic analyses. She pointed out that there are two lenses for socioeconomic analysis – the value of the investments to the community and to the ecosystem. Carter Kruse asked how this assessment might approach reservoir data, acknowledging that dams impact riverine systems but impoundments can provide fishing opportunities for other species. Gary replied that there may be some value judgements from the Board as the assessment is developed. Carter also asked whether we could work with other entities to reduce costs and/or increase expertise. Gary noted that as an action item. Adam Ringia circled back to the concept of socioeconomics and asked whether there is an opportunity to better define socioeconomic benefits. He noted that social justice is a national focus and an increased emphasis on that specific topic may be well-received by congress during discussions around ACE Act reauthorization. He requested that the SDC consider better defining the socioeconomic analyses in this work. Gary indicated that they will consider EPA EJ Screen and other similar tools as they further develop the assessment methodology. Ted Eischeid noted that climate is of particular interest. For example, he described the importance of springs as thermal refugia for salmon in Alaska. He suggested that adding climate to this assessment could allow for greater strategic conservation actions and requested that it be included as an addendum to the overall effort, if possible. Chris Moore asked where funding would come from. Gary suggested most likely through project funds. Chairman Boyles asked the Board to provide a sense of which option to pursue and whether they would like to voice any opposition. The Board discussed the options at hand and the consensus approach was termed "Option 1.5", which will expand on the Base Case (Option 1) with available data for focal macrohabitats (lakes, reservoirs, impoundments, and inshore habitat).

Kate and Daniel provided an update on the recent progress of the NFHP project tracking database development. Kate noted that migrating old data to the new system required an extensive QA/QC effort that had started but would continue in the coming months. She also described efforts to add Board-level projects to the database. Finally, she noted that this is an internal dashboard managed mainly by the Partnerships. The Board can log-in and access the data using the log-in information (provided separately) and reminded the Board that this database is currently for internal use only.

Daniel shared a word-cloud graphic ([attached](#) to meeting summary) created using the information in the database and noted that this information can be easily queried to create graphics for use by Partnerships and others. Daniel concluded with Project Tracking System next steps with the top priority of releasing a public facing dashboard. Tim Schaeffer noted that we should add functionality to query data by congressional district for reporting purposes.

11:05 AM	Report out from FHP Coordinator Workshop <i>Desired outcomes:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Board awareness of FHP Workshop accomplishments and recommendations	Tab 5	Joan Drinkwin <i>(Pacific Marine and Estuarine Partnership)</i>
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Joan opened the presentation by thanking Ryan Roberts and Stacy Beaugh for their help developing and facilitating the workshop. She noted participation by 12 of 20 FHPs and at least five Board members along with all Board staff during this workshop. Joan offered several key takeaways. She noted the diversity among the partnerships – goals, approaches, and coordinator roles all vary substantially across the FHPs. Joan also thanked the Board for their support and noted the value of the FHP Report Card and the ACE Act to their continued operations. She offered several recommendations on behalf of the FHPs to the Board ahead ACE Act reauthorization. First, she requested that the 1:1 non-federal match requirement be adjusted such that it can be met programmatically across NFHP as a whole to allow greater operational flexibility, noting that on-the-ground projects often exceed this requirement. Second, she requested that the March 31 submission deadline requirement for the ranked project list be adjusted to reduce the lag between submission and funding. Third, she recommended that the Board work to reauthorize and amplify the NFHP Action Plan. On the final point, Gary Whelan noted that efforts were underway to update the Action Plan ahead of ACE Act authorization.

11:20 AM	Back to the Future: Remembering the NFHP Vision <i>Desired outcomes:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Board awareness of the history of NFHP, the original vision, its evolution and recommendations from a “founder”		Christopher Estes <i>(Chalk Board Enterprises, LLC)</i>
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Jason Olive opened and introduced Christopher Estes. He noted Christopher retired from the Alaska Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G) and had served as ADF&G’s Chief of the Statewide Resources Coordination Unit and a Fisheries Scientist. He is currently an Aquatic Resources & Habitat Scientist with Chalk Board Enterprises and also serves as the Director at Large of the Instream Flow Council. Jason noted Christopher’s many years of service to further the NFHP vision and his contributions to instream flow and water level conservation. Christopher’s NFHP contributions included working on detail to AFWA (through the ADF&G) as AFWA’s National Fish Habitat Initiative (NFHI) Core Work Group Coordinator. The Core Work Group was charged with crafting the National Fish Habitat Action Plan from 2004 to 2006.

Christopher's subsequent roles included representing AFWA on the Board Staff from 2006 to 2010, later serving as an editor of the 2012 NFHAP edition update, and serving on the Science and Data Committee since its formation. Form Board Chair Ed Schriever referred to Christopher as the "conscience of NFHP". Christopher also contributed to the language in the NFHAP enabling legislation beginning with the initial version.

Christopher began his presentation by framing the historical impetus for the creation of the 2006 Action Plan, which included a broadly-agreed need to more cost effectively coordinate non-regulatory science-based aquatic habitat conservation programs and activities at local, regional, and national scales including representation by those impacted by outcomes (governmental, non-governmental, academic, private, corporate, etc.). He noted the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) framework was used to guide the creation of the 2006 Action Plan and stressed the continuing relevance of the original Action Plan. Christopher described the 2012 Action Plan edition as a supplemental update to the 2006 Action Plan. He also noted the 2012 edition included an inter-agency MOU between the Departments of Interior, Commerce, and Agriculture which expanded upon and further emphasized the roles of the Federal Caucus. He added the 2012 edition included an update summarizing supporting functions of each federal agency participating in the Caucus. He urged attendees to read both the 2006 and 2012 editions for purposes of context and intent. He also explained the nexus between the NFHAP editions and various elements of PL 116-188, Title II that codified the 2006 & 2012 editions and the links between the Federal Caucus and the Interagency Operational Plan. Christopher concluded the presentation with a series of reflections on the past and future of NFHP and his recommendations for further improving its implementation.

During the discussion, Tim Schaeffer voiced appreciation on behalf of AFWA and noted that AFWA would work to ensure that NFHP has renewed visibility among the regional associations and the national level. Doug Austen voiced his appreciation for the presentation and requested that we work to broaden this message through a webinar provided to the FHPs and other partners. Chairman Boyles noted the importance of reflecting and committed to continued consultation of the original purpose of NFHP included in the original Action Plan. Christopher was invited to coordinate with the staff and Board to provide a repeat future webinar version of his presentation that will also be uploaded to YouTube.

12:00 PM

LUNCH

1:00 PM

Facilitated Session on Achieving the NFHP Purpose and Vision

Stacy Beough
(Strategic by Nature)

Stacy opened the session by asking the Board to reflect on the NFHP vision and discuss how well we are collectively achieving the original intent of the program. Adam Ringia noted that we could better work to enhance the diversity of representation on the Board and ensure that the benefits of these efforts reach everyone equitably. Bryan Moore asked for greater information about the annual accomplishments of the FHPs and their coordinators. Carter Kruse noted that we should be working to take full advantage of all available funding opportunities to increase the reach and impact of NFHP. Doug Austen noted that there may be multiple visions for NFHP and suggested that finding greater alignment may lead to more effective outcomes. Anne Kinsinger described NFHP as "the best program no one ever heard of" and echoed the need for unified direction.

Stacy next asked the Board to consider how they might leverage existing networks the better serve NFHP. One participant noted that NFHP can better embrace its vision and develop more effective branding to ensure broad awareness among stakeholders. Ted Eischeid reminded the Board that the ACE Act is recent

history with many NFHP Board members and partnerships predating its implementation. He suggested that the Board work to better understand the operations of the FHPs and develop a unified vision through dialog and mutual understanding. Doug Austen noted that the Partnerships could be a vehicle for more effective conservation action and suggested that we need to work to better compete for available funding. Tim Schaeffer noted the need to re-engage with regional AFWA's and committed to engage with regional directors. Sam Rauch noted that the NFHP enterprise has worked tirelessly to meet the vision with an overarching strategy and reminded the Board that they play a key role in this strategic investment. Steve Perry suggested that the Board should work to ensure that the FHPs are self-sufficient. Kimberly Conley suggested that everyone look for efficiencies across the entire enterprise to ensure effectiveness, including the highest and best use of the Board members. Ian Nakayama agreed with the Board diversity goal previously stated and suggested that the board leverage partners as needed to increase engagement. Connor Bevan suggested that the Board craft a message that distinguishes NFHP from other restoration initiatives. Josh Wilson (USFS Assistant Director for Aquatic and Water Resources) noted that aquatic habitat conservation is a key focus of the Forest Service and will continue to be an agency priority. Stan Allen noted that between the FHPs and the connections of the Board, NFHP has an expansive network and remarked that many are working "behind the scenes" to make connections that benefit aquatic habitats. Pat Rivers suggested that enhancing our communications strategies could ensure awareness of NFHP among partners and the public. Christopher Estes stressed that NFHP should maintain major focus on environmental flows. Joe Nohner highlighted the lack of involvement from several federal agencies not represented on the Board and noted the availability of other funding sources such as the Farm Bill and CWA Section 319. Adam Ringia echoed the interest in enhancing communications strategies and suggested that NFHP better engage with the Bureau of Indian Affairs to expand the network. Tim Schaeffer expressed that we should communicate restoration successes to their local audiences to enhance public awareness of NFHP. Gary Whelan noted appreciation for existing NFHP staff and suggested obtaining permanent staff with Kelly Hepler suggesting the possibility of adding an Executive Director to the Board. Jason Olive noted the importance of the FHP coordinators as conduits between the Board and their FHP network. Bryan Moore highlighted the importance of the FHPs as communicators to their respective communities and suggested that community foundations could be a suitable source for smaller amounts of FHP funding. Doug Nygren suggested adding the Bureau of Reclamation to the list of potential Federal partners and mentioned their Title 28 granting program.

Stacy presented the final question – how might Board members support the efforts we have discussed? Anne Kinsinger indicated that she would work to ensure that regional staff are aware of opportunities to engage with the FHPs. Jake Slager suggested partnerships with universities to support needed research work and engagement with equity-focused groups to ensure diverse engagement. Stacy concluded the session by suggesting that an annual board action plan might help ensure development of these discussion items.

2:00 PM

Policy Committee Update

Tim Schaeffer
(NEAFWA)

Desired outcomes:

- **Board awareness** of Policy Committee activities.
- **Board awareness** of Federal Agency contributions to NFHP in accordance with ACE Act (Section 212).
- **Board awareness** of budget discussions for ACE Act re-authorization.

Tim opened the presentation by placing a call for new members and noted that Doug Nygren recently joined the committee as the FHP representative. He then went on to notify the Board that conversations are beginning about ACE Act reauthorization and encouraged Board members to accompany the Policy Committee during Hill visits planned in conjunction with the Spring 2024 meeting. There was a discussion of pairing implemented projects with congressional members and staff to enhance understanding. Tim also noted that the request for a contribution summary was submitted to the agencies and a response is requested by the end of January 2024 to support ACE Act reauthorization. Tim circled back to ACE Act reauthorization and noted that the Policy Committee plans to present information about the extent of unfunded projects in the context of what future funding amount could be used through NFHP with the intent to ramp up to NAWCA funding levels. He also stressed the importance for FHPs to connect with state legislators to ensure awareness of NFHP ahead of ACE Act authorization. Talking points will be drafted to assist with these legislative communities.

2:20 PM

NOAA Recreational Fishing Grant Program

Sam Rauch

(NOAA)

- **Board awareness** of NOAA Rec Fish granting program and current opportunity.

Sam presented information about the NOAA Recreational Fisheries Funding Opportunity, which has been coordinated through NFHP for the past several years. He highlighted recently funded projects, including one project completed by the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources – Marine Resources Division which connected school-aged children in a local underserved community with estuarine habitat restoration efforts and taught them angling skills. Finally, Sam highlighted the current opportunity, which closes in April 2024. Pat Rivers asked whether these funds could be applied to projects in the Great Lakes and Sam indicated that it likely would, but suggested verifying with Alex McOwen who helps to run the program on behalf of NOAA Fisheries.

2:35 PM

BREAK

2:50 PM

Partnerships Committee Update

Tab 6

Stan Allen (PSMFC)

Desired outcomes:

Joe Nohner

(MI DNR)

- **Board awareness** of next steps for implementation of Board Buddies program.
- **Board vote** on increasing the cap on FHP operational funding.

Joe Nohner opened the presentation by reminding the Board that the Board Buddies program survey was sent out to Board members following the September Board meeting. Of the 26 Board members, 14 responded with interest in participating, and many included interest in buddying with several FHPs. Carter Kruse asked whether the Board could cover travel expenses for Board members to engage with FHPs. Doug Austen noted that several FHPs have several interested board members and asked that staff work to ensure relatively equal participation across FHPs.

Stan Allen then presented the Board with a proposal to increase the FHP operational funding cap. He noted that this follows a presentation/discussion at the September Board meeting. The existing cap (\$85k) has been stationary since 2018. The Partnerships Committee has determined that increasing this cap will allow for better coordinator compensation, coordination, and education efforts. However, operational

funds come out of the overall FHP awarded allocation, so if an FHP requests additional operational funding, it will come at the expense of the budget available for project implementation. Stan Allen made a motion to bring the vote to the floor for discussion with a second by Julie Carter. There was a discussion about the FHP capacity for a different business model, though concerns about increasing complexity and eligibility for Federal funding were raised. Ted Eischeid voiced strong support for this proposal. It was clarified that this change would apply to FY 2025 funds. The motion passed by unanimous consent.

3:00 PM

Fish Habitat Partnership Congressional Designation Update

Tab 7

Stan Allen (PSMFC)
Bryan Moore (Trout Unlimited)

Desired outcomes:

- **Board awareness** of submission and review process for FHP Congressional Designation

Bryan Moore presented a reminder to the Board regarding the process for FHP congressional designation and stated that the intent of this exercise is to meet the letter of the ACE Act. He presented the timeline for Board review and submission. He then asked for volunteers to serve on the review team. Steve Perry, Pat Rivers, Adam Ringia, and Julie Carter volunteered. There was a note that an additional review from a representative on the Policy Committee would be requested.

3:10 PM

Communications Committee Update

Tab 8

Johnny LeCoq (Fishpond)

Desired outcomes:

- **Board awareness** of 2024 Communications Deliverables

Johnny LeCoq started by noting that Debbie Hart is joining the committee and requested participation from an additional Board Member following the departure of Chris Cantrell. Ryan Roberts then reminded the FHP coordinators to add their upcoming meetings and relevant planned events to the [NFHP Canva Calendar](#) for awareness. Finally, Ryan and Chairman Boyles both expressed gratitude for Johnny's service on the Board and Communications Committee. Johnny suggested he would be available for future assistance.

3:20 PM

Governance Committee Update

Desired outcomes:

- **Board awareness** of development of committee procedures

Doug Austen (American Fisheries Society)

Doug Austen opened this session by reminding the Board of the six main tasks of the Governance Committee, including the establishment of Board Bylaws. He also noted that there should be a push to formalize committee bylaws across Board committees, for those who have not done so already.

3:25 PM

National Fish Habitat Board Bylaws

Desired outcomes:

- **Board awareness and discussion** of key elements of the proposed Bylaws.
- **Board vote** on adoption of proposed Bylaws.

Doug Austen (American Fisheries Society)

Doug began this session by describing the review and development process for the recently-drafted Board Bylaws. The development of procedures is required by the ACE Act Section 203(e). Bylaws were based on the ACE Act and other non-profit board experience. For example, one question that was raised was what level of approval was needed for each item of Board business. The Governance Committee determined that a quorum (14 Board members) was needed for normal business of the board and recommendations require an 18-vote majority. Doug made a motion to bring the current draft of the Board Bylaws to the floor for discussion and a vote, with second by Pat Rivers. There was no discussion and the motion passed by unanimous consent.

3:50 PM

Interagency Operational Plan Progress Report

Jason Olive (USFWS)

Desired outcomes:

- **Board awareness** of progress being made on development of the IOP by federal agencies as required by the ACE Act.

Jason started by reminding the Board that Section 208 of the ACE Act requires that the Federal agencies develop a formal Interagency Operation Plan. He indicated that efforts are underway and that representatives from each participating Federal agency met to discuss previous IOP-like documents (2006, 2012) and identify a pathway for developing an updated version. Jason also described a Federal Fisheries Summit that convened in Winter 2023 which brought together all federal agencies that touch fisheries. The recommendations from the resulting included establishing a consensus of gaps and overlap in focal areas. He noted that many of the issues identified will be solved with a robust IOP. Finally, Jason highlighted that this will be a useful resource for anyone working in aquatic habitat conservation and restoration. Jason outlined the IOP content which include: (1) Introduction (legislation and NFHP history); (2) Existing federal resources for fish habitat; (3) Benefits of NFHP to federal agencies; (4) Federal agencies commitments to NFHP and FHPs and reporting; (5) Federal agency collaboration mechanisms and structure; and (6) MOUs and other agreements. During the discussion, Pat Rivers suggested that this effort be completed prior to January 2025. Doug Austen suggested having a draft by the end of April 2024. Anne Kinsinger noted that sending the draft up to DOI and other Departments early would likely help to speed the final approval process, since the previous versions were signed at the Department level. Pat Rivers asked if we can set a tentative date completion date of Oct 2024 to ensure timely delivery.

4:05 PM

USFWS Update

Steve Guertin (USFWS)

Jason Olive provided this update on behalf of Steve Guertin. Jason announced that Dave Miko was selected as the new Assistant Director of Fisheries and Aquatic Conservation. Dave Miko had been serving in that role in an acting capacity for the past 1.5 years. Jason also noted that the current markup of the President's Budget has NFHP set at 7.164M, which is flat from the last few years. During discussion, Byran Moore suggest that Dave Miko come address the Board and Jason agreed to request that presentation.

4:20 PM

Board Vote on Reappointment of Members

Robert Boyles (AFWA, Board Chair)

- Executive Session for discussion
- Votes held in open session

Ahead of the Board vote on reappointment, the Board moved into Executive session. The motion was brought to the floor by Adam Ringia and seconded by Bran Moore. The Board made a motion to come out of executive session, noting no actions were taken during that period.

Six Board members were reappointed as follows:

- Stan Allen (Councils/Commissions) – Motion: Bryan Moore, Second: Doug Austen. Passed by unanimous consent with one recusal (Stan Allen).
- Doug Austen (Science Based Fisheries Organization Representative) – Motion: Carter Kruse, Second: Bryan Moore. Passed by unanimous consent with one recusal (Doug Austen).
- Carter Kruse (National Private Landowner Representative) – Motion: Pat Rivers, Second: Jake Slager. Motion passed by unanimous consent with one recusal (Carter Kruse)
- Chris Moore (Commercial Fishing Representative) – Motion: Doug Austen, Second: Stan Allen. Passed by unanimous consent with one recusal (Chris Moore).
- Steve Perry (Landowner Representative of an active Fish Habitat Partnership) – Motion: Julie Carter, Second: Pat Rivers. Passed by unanimous consent with one recusal (Steve Perry).
- Jesse Trushenski (Agricultural Production) – Motion: Adam Ringia, Second: Doug Austen. Passed by unanimous consent with one recusal (Jesse Trushenski).

Following the completion of voting, Sam Rauch reminded the Board that there are now four Board vacancies and he encouraged others to take diversity into consideration in new appointments. Ryan Roberts reminded the Board of the general process and timeline for submission and appointment. Regarding the Sportfishing and Boating Partnership Council (SFBPC) seat, Ryan reminded the Board that the SFBPC is in the process of re-forming and suggested that the Board contact them in Spring 2024. Finally Doug Austen noted that the NFHP Board has the opportunity to appoint a vice chair and recommended that vote be put on the agenda for the February Board meeting.

Wrap-Up and Thursday Field Trip Plans

Robert Boyles
(AFWA, Board Chair)

5:00 PM

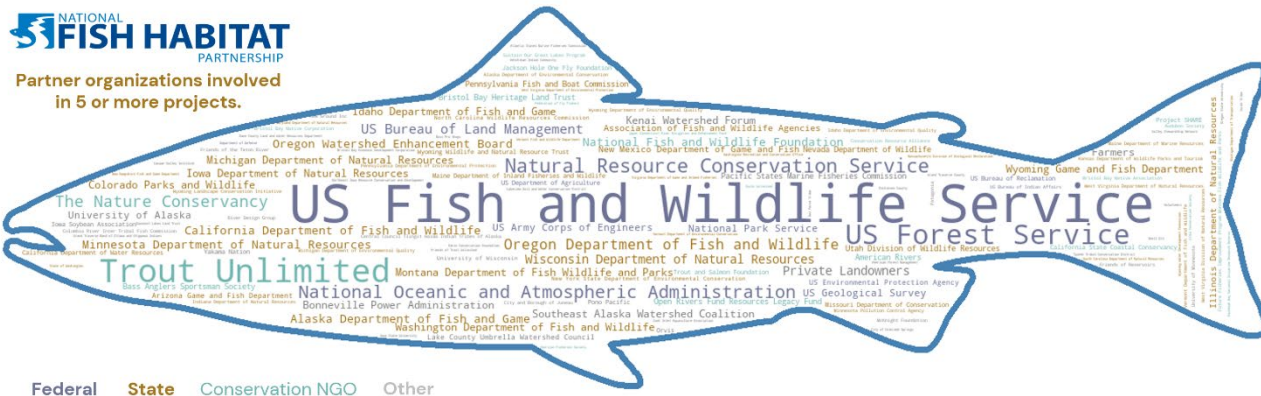
ADJOURN

NFHP Project Partners

for demonstration purposes only – using preliminary data

1499 organizations

- Federal: 18 partners, 1427 projects
- State: 220 partners, 682 projects
- Tribal: 71 partners, 100 projects
- Conservation non-profit: 229 partners, 580 projects
- Academia: 124 partners, 165 projects
- Local government: 303 partners, 382 projects
- Fishery commissions: 3 partners, 30 projects
- Recreation groups: 22 partners, 30 projects
- Coalition/partnership: 25 partners, 56 projects



Board Elections:

The National Fish Habitat Board (Board) will hold an election for (4) seats to be represented on the Board. A 2/3rds majority (18) of the Board is needed for election to the Board. The terms for those who are elected will run through February 2027.

The Board solicited nominations for four seats representing different sectors, as listed below.

Representative Seat(s)

1. Corporate Industry- either natural resource commodity interests, such as petroleum or mineral extraction OR industries with an interest in fish and fish habitat conservation
2. Local Government Representative involved in fish habitat
3. Marine Recreational Anglers
4. A Representative from one of the following categories:
 - (i) the recreational sportfishing industry;
 - (ii) the commercial fishing industry;
 - (iii) marine recreational anglers;
 - (iv) freshwater recreational anglers;
 - (v) habitat conservation organizations; and
 - (vi) science-based fishery organizations;

The following individuals have submitted applications to the Board for consideration. Each is listed in the categories where they are eligible for consideration.

Category: Corporate Industry - fishing industry or natural resource commodities (LeCoq)

<i>Name</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Organization</i>
Kathy Hoverman	Senior Project Manager	Resource Environmental Solutions
John O'Keefe	Senior Specialist, Government Relations	Yamaha Motor Corporation
Campbell Weyland	Sustainability and Compliance, Sr. Analyst	Lowe's Companies, Inc.
Steven Bardin	Fisheries Biologist	Texas Pro Lake Management and MLF

Category: Local Government Representative Involved in Fish Habitat Conservation (Eischeid)

<i>Name</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Organization</i>
Peter Micciche	Mayor	Kenai Peninsula Borough (AK)

Category: Marine recreational anglers (Plumer)

Michael Roberts	President	The Coastal Trust
Chris Horton	Senior Director, Fisheries Policy	Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation
Ian Nakayama	Government Relations Manager	Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership
Scott Hickman	Captain	Circle H Charters INC., TX.

Category: recreational sportfishing industry, commercial fishing industry, marine recreational anglers, freshwater recreational anglers, habitat conservation organizations, and science-based fishery organizations (Singler)

<i>Name</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Organization</i>
Erin McCombs	Director, Southeastern Conservation	American Rivers
Josh Royte	Sr. Conservation Scientist	The Nature Conservancy, Maine Chapter
Michael Roberts	President	The Coastal Trust



National Fish Habitat Board Meeting
February 6, 2024
Tab 3

Steven Bardin	Fisheries Biologist	Texas Pro Lake Management and MLF
Robert LaFrance	Director of Policy	National Audubon Society, Audubon Connecticut
Bob Mallard	Executive Director	Native Fish Coalition
Chris Horton	Senior Director, Fisheries Policy	Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation
Ian Nakayama	Government Relations Manager	Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership
Scott Hickman	Captain	Circle H Charters INC., TX.
JoEllen Wilson	Program Manager, Juvenile Tarpon Habitat	Bonefish & Tarpon Trust

Communications Committee Report

Committee members: Steve Guertin, John LeCoq, Pat Rivers, Gene Gilliland, and Debbie Hart (FHP Representative)

Committee Update:

- Committee met in January and welcomed Debbie Hart, SE Alaska FHP Coordinator to the Committee.
- The NFHP Communications Committee helped develop the [2024 NFHP Calendar](#) for Board and FHP-related meetings and deadlines.
- Website revision and video development for NFHP will begin in February-March of 2024.
- The NFHP Video project will commence in mid-2024. interviews that were captured in December are being reviewed/edited.
- The 2024 Waters to Watch Campaign will kick off with solicitations in July 2024 and will be announced in October.
- The Committee discussed recommendations to expand the committee outside of Board members and is also looking for any interested members on the Board wanting to serve.

Committee Request: Members of the Committee wanted to query the Board on Reports that are required per the ACE Act, and in general communications that come from NFHP. Should these reports and communications serve multiple purposes?

PROPOSED NFHP BOARD PROCEDURES MANUAL CONTENTS

CHAPTER	DESCRIPTION	RESPONSIBILITY	PRIORITY
Code of Conduct	Board member code of conduct including policy on conflicts of interest	Governance Committee	1
Designation of FHPs	Description of the process for obtaining Congressional designation of existing FHPs and the process for approving new FHPs	Partnerships Committee	2
Committee Governance Documents	All standing committees of the Board are required to have their own guidance document that describes how they will operate	Each committee develops their own, Governance Committee reviews, and Board approves	3
FHP Evaluation Process	Description of how the annual FHP evaluation process is to be conducted	Partnerships Committee	4
NFHP Staffing Plan	Description of the Board's staffing needs and how the Board will interact with Board staff relative to duties and accountability	EXCOM	5



Back to The Future

Revisiting the NFHP Vision

Christopher Estes
Chalk Board Enterprises, LLC

National Fish Habitat Board Meeting
with

National Fish Habitat Partnership Coordinators

December 6, 2023

Charleston, SC



Twenty- three Years: 2000-2023

- Sport Fish & Boating Partnership Council
- National Fish Habitat Initiative/Core Work Group
- National Fish Habitat Action Plan 2006 Highlights
- National Fish Habitat Action Plan 2012 Highlights
- Federal Caucus Highlights (2006 & 2012 NFHAP editions)
- PL 116-188, Title II (2020)
 - Interagency Operational Plan (IOP)
 - Scientific & Technical Support
- Reflections

Goal: Compensate for:

- Losses of institutional history
- Losses of institutional knowledge*

* Might be other perspectives, lots of turnover in 23 years



WHY NFHP FORMED?



National Problem

Significant declines & negative trends in quantity & quality of aquatic habitats required to sustain productivity of fish & aquatic organisms (freshwater, **estuarine & marine) nationwide** (highlighted by the Sport Fishing & Boating Partnership Council in early 2000s)



National Problem (continued)

Thousands of governmental, non-governmental, private, & other watershed/aquatic habitat conservation programs/initiatives/actions supported by billion plus annual funding yet **unable** to effectively keep pace with population growth/development to prevent, & reverse habitat degradation & loss trends across boundaries & jurisdictions



Solutions Approach

Sport Fishing & Boating Partnership Council (SBPC) hosts nationwide stakeholder meetings to better define scope of problems & pathway to solutions (~2002-2004)



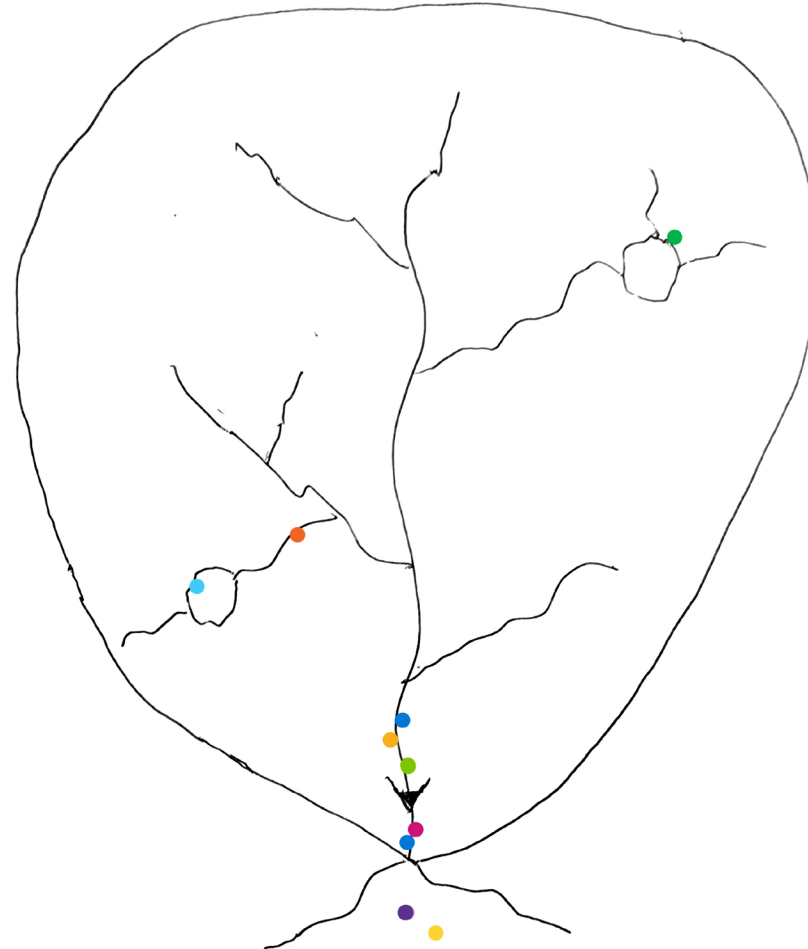
SBPC STAKEHOLDERS MEETINGS RESULTS

Identified silo dilemma characterized by insufficient multi-jurisdictional coordination/awareness combined with redundancies for implementing aquatic/fish habitat based conservation programs & actions with existing dollars (watershed/landscape/species range/habitat types, etc.)

- National, regional, & local scales
- Federal, state, tribal, local, other governmental, non-governmental, private, academic, & other stakeholders
- Within same entity

National Problem (continued)

Conceptual Watershed Illustrating Coordination Issues: different colored dots represent different entities (sometimes the same entity) independently collecting the same or different data within different portions of freshwater, estuarine & marine habitats (without or limited coordination & comprehensive assessments) based on jurisdictions, ownership boundaries, funding sources, etc.



PROPOSED REMEDY

Develop/implement a national fish habitat action plan by building upon and mimicking the successful 1980s North American Waterfowl Management Plan model & resulting North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) to conserve waterfowl habitat & populations*

*Shout out to Gary Myers for his assistance related to NAWCA lessons learned

Resulting Actions (Highlights)

- Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies (AFWA) Fisheries & Water Resources Policy Committee (FWRPC) established National Fish Habitat Initiative (NFHI) Core Workgroup to take lead crafting a *National Fish Habitat Action Plan, NFHAP* (2004)
 - See pages Exhibit 5, pp. 26 & 27 *NFHAP* (2006 edition) for primary contributors
https://www.fishhabitat.org/files/uploads/National_Fish_Habitat_Action_Plan_2006.pdf
- Multistate conservation grant projects acquired to fund plan development by the NFHI Core Workgroup & to support pilot on-the-ground habitat conservation projects (~\$2 million, 2004, 2005).



Related Actions (examples)

- National Fish & Wildlife Foundation, in partnership with Bass Pro Shops, pledge funds & align grant-making support for NFHAP development (emphasizing on-the-ground science-based innovative fish habitat conservation action priorities & approaches)



Related Actions (examples continued)

- Sport Fishing & Boating Partnership Council collaborates with a variety of industry, governmental & non-governmental groups, & other stakeholders to establish & expand a **partnership coalition** (300+) to support NFHAP development & implementation
 - See pages 13-17, *NFHAP* (2006 edition)
https://www.fishhabitat.org/files/uploads/National_Fish_Habitat_Action_Plan_2006.pdf

(note: ~1500 partners today)



Related Actions (examples continued)

Regional landscape based fish habitat partnerships begin to emerge & develop comprehensive habitat plans

- Southeast Aquatic Resources Partnership
- Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture
- Western Native Trout Initiative
- Reservoir Fish Habitat Partnership
- Matanuska-Susitna Basin Salmon Habitat Partnership



Related Actions (examples continued)

Additional financial/in-kind support provided by federal partners:

- USFWS
- USGS
- NOAA
- USFS
- BLM
- others



Related Actions (examples continued)

19 Federal agencies, headed by the USFWS, formed the Federal Caucus (basis for Interagency Operational Plan, IOP) to coordinate federal efforts among themselves to support development & implementation of the *NFHAP*.

- See inside cover letter, pages 8, 10, 22-35, *NFHAP* (2006 edition)
https://www.fishhabitat.org/files/uploads/National_Fish_Habitat_Action_Plan_2006.pdf



Related Actions (examples continued)

Website formed, www.fishhabitat.org, as initial communication tool for communicating among everyone collaborating on plan development activities



Related Actions (examples continued)

- NFHAP completed (early 2006)
- NFHAP approved for implementation by AFWA (March 24, 2006)
- NFHAP formally endorsed (April 24, 2006)
 - AFWA President, John Cooper
 - AFWA Executive Vice President, John Baughman
 - Acting Secretary of the Interior Lynn Scarlett
 - Secretary of Commerce Carlos Gutierrez

2006 Edition

National Fish Habitat
Action Plan



2006 NFHAP ENDORSEMENT



April 24, 2006

The United States is blessed with a remarkable abundance and diversity of waterways and fisheries. Their health is vital to our well-being as individuals and as a nation. Unfortunately, our collective efforts to conserve aquatic habitats have not kept pace with their decline. Without prompt and effective conservation action, our waters will continue to suffer, as will the opportunities they provide.


Galvanized into action by the threat of aquatic habitat losses, an unprecedented coalition of anglers, conservation groups, scientists, state and federal agencies and industry leaders forged the National Fish Habitat Action Plan. The plan's principal aim is to better protect, restore and enhance fish habitat through partnerships that foster conservation and improve the quality of life for the American people.

The plan encompasses all of the nation's waters that provide fish habitat. It is science-based, voluntary and non-regulatory and offers a carefully wrought nationwide strategy to harness the energies, expertise and existing partnerships of state and federal agencies, conservation organizations, foundations and others. It recognizes that in aquatic systems across the country, fisheries professionals and their partners propose to build on these and other model efforts through a network of Fish Habitat Partnerships to focus energy, skill and dollars on key fish habitats as never before.

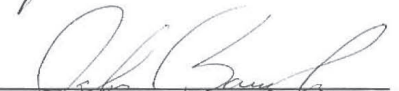
The plan is a rallying point for a wide range of fish and aquatic habitat interest groups. It contains extensive input from numerous partners and stakeholders. It is endorsed by state fish and wildlife agency leaders, and 19 federal agencies have formed a caucus to better coordinate their activities in support of the plan. With its strong base of support, its focus on the use of existing and emerging science, and its emphasis on the importance of partnerships, the plan presents a historic opportunity to launch a new era in fisheries conservation.

We enthusiastically endorse the National Fish Habitat Action Plan and commit to playing an active role in its implementation.


Acting Secretary, Department of the Interior


President, Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies


Secretary, Department of Commerce


Executive Vice President, Association of
Fish and Wildlife Agencies





NFHAP Cover Letter Highlights

Improve Habitat Conservation & Quality of Life

Galvanized into action by the threat of aquatic habitat losses, an unprecedented coalition of anglers, conservation groups, scientists, state and federal agencies and industry leaders forged the National Fish Habitat Action Plan. The plan's principal aim is to better protect, restore and enhance fish habitat through partnerships that foster conservation and improve the quality of life for the American people.



Letter Highlights (examples continued)

Science-based, non-regulatory, voluntary based national fish habitat conservation strategy

The plan encompasses all of the nation's waters that provide fish habitat. It is science-based, voluntary and non-regulatory and offers a carefully wrought nationwide strategy to harness the energies, expertise and existing partnerships of state and federal agencies, conservation organizations, foundations and others. It recognizes that in aquatic systems across the country, fisheries professionals and their partners propose to build on these and other model efforts through a network of Fish Habitat Partnerships to focus energy, skill and dollars on key fish habitats as never before.

Letter Highlights (examples continued)

Endorsement by partners & stakeholders (including state fish & wildlife agencies, & federal caucus comprised of 19 federal agencies) to improve coordination to support plan implementation

The plan is a rallying point for a wide range of fish and aquatic habitat interest groups. It contains extensive input from numerous partners and stakeholders. It is endorsed by state fish and wildlife agency leaders, and 19 federal agencies have formed a caucus to better coordinate their activities in support of the plan. With its strong base of support, its focus on the use of existing and emerging science, and its emphasis on the importance of partnerships, the plan presents a historic opportunity to launch a new era in fisheries conservation.



NFHAP VISION

Healthy habitats, healthy fish, healthy people, & healthy economies will be achieved through cooperation, investment, & stewardship resulting in local actions that yield measurable social, economic, and ecological benefits & more fish!



Post NFHAP Endorsement (highlights)

- National Fish Habitat Board established spring/summer 2006
- Board Staff supplied by AFWA, USFWS, NOAA, USGS
- Inaugural Board Meeting September 2006
- Charter
- 20 Fish Habitat Partnerships
- Through the Fishes Eye, 2010 & 2015 (Science & Data Assessment)
- NFHAP 2nd Edition (2012)
- Multiple efforts to pass enabling legislation 2005 to 2020, success in 2020, PL 116-188, Title II
- Other efforts to pass Executive Order (abandoned after initial efforts)

2012 Edition

National
Fish Habitat
Action Plan

2nd Edition

Cooperation
Investment
Stewardship



Supplements 2006 Original Edition- **not a substitute**

Updates to NFHAP Implementation post endorsement of the 2006 edition

Includes Memorandum of Understanding between Departments of Agriculture, Interior, and National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration & updated Federal Caucus Matrix (See pages 15,25-29, 35, 37, 41, 42 *NFHAP* (2012 edition))

https://www.fishhabitat.org/files/uploads/National_Fish_Habitat_Action_Plan_2012.pdf

Federal Caucus

(member examples NFHAP 2012 edition)

Strategies and Resources Contributed by Federal Agencies to the National Fish Habitat Partnership									
2012 Federal Caucus member agencies	Leadership	Funding	Data sharing / database development	Education	Recruiting partners	Monitoring/ evaluation	Strategic planning	Technical expertise	Projects on federal lands
Department of Commerce									
NOAA Fisheries Service	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	
National Ocean Service			●					●	
Department of the Interior									
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
U.S. Geological Survey	●		●		●		●	●	
Bureau of Land Management	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Office of Surface Mining		●		●	●	●		●	
National Park Service			●	●	●	●		●	●
Bureau of Reclamation	●				●			●	
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management			●	●	●	●		●	●
Department of Agriculture									
Forest Service	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Natural Resources Conservation Service		●		●	●		●	●	
Farm Service Agency					●			●	
Environmental Protection Agency		●	●	●	●			●	
Department of Defense (DoD)									
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	●	●	●		●			●	
DoD Natural Resources Program								●	●
Department of Transportation									
Federal Highway Administration		●		●	●			●	
Department of Homeland Security									
Federal Emergency Management Agency		●		●	●				



Interagency Operational Plan, IOP*

- USFWS Director (lead). Core agency representation/participants include NOAA, USEPA, USGS, and USFS & includes other appropriate federal partner entities (see also federal caucus background)
- Intended to establish coordination plan among relevant federal agencies to support & facilitate implementation of NFHP,
- Initial IOP draft produced 2021, updates required every 5 years

*based on NFHAP 2006, 2012 Federal Caucus (PL 116-188, Title II, Section 208)



Reflections

- No silver bullets
- Infancy
- Plan/Law/Charter relationships
- Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies/Regional Associations
- FHP & Board Expectations
- Capacity, Networking, IOP
- Improve the wheel/don't reinvent
- Personally rewarding – making a difference
- Not intended for assembly line mentality (breaking the mold)
- Should existing action plans now be referenced as transformational change plans?
- Implement the Federal Caucus (Section 208, ACE Act)
- Implement scientific & technical support using the \$ 2 million authorization (Section 206, ACE Act)
- Reminder of the rationale for 2 tribal seats
- There are no substitutes for reading the 2006 & 2012 NFHAP editions & PL 116-188, Title II
- Celebrate the founders



NFHP Toolbox Recaps

NFHAP/PL 116-188, Title II, NFHP Board, Staff, Fish Habitat Partnerships, & Partners



Regional Fish Habitat Partnerships



Geographic / Species Based Partnerships

- 1 Atlantic Coast FHP
- 2 California Fish Passage Forum
- 3 Desert FHP
- 4 Driftless Area Restoration Network
- 5 Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture
- 6 Fishers and Farmers Partnership
- 7 Great Lakes Basin FHP
- 8 Great Plains FHP
- 9 Hawaii FHP
- 10 Kenai Peninsula FHP
- 11 Matanuska-Susitna Basin Salmon Habitat Partnership
- 12 Midwest Glacial Lakes Partnership
- 13 Ohio River Basin FHP
- 14 Pacific Lamprey FHP
- 15 Pacific Marine and Estuarine FHP
- 16 Southeast Alaska FHP
- 17 Southeast Aquatic Resources FHP
- 18 Southwest Alaska Salmon Habitat Partnership
- 19 Western Native Trout Initiative

System Based Partnership

- 20 Reservoir FHP*
*the Reservoir FHP is a system based partnership that covers reservoirs across the country

Note: Alaska and islands not to scale

Includes current fish habitat partnerships, approved by the NFHP Board, June 2016.



Mission:

Protect, restore and enhance the nation's fish and aquatic communities through **20 partnerships** that foster fish habitat conservation and improve the quality of life for the American people

- ***Implements voluntary and non-regulatory*** landscape-scale fisheries conservation using the best science
- ***Leverages*** federal and privately raised funds to build partnerships
- ***Partner Coalition*** of 1500+ agencies and organizations





THANKS to the NFHP Board, Staff, & Fish Habitat Partnerships including all past founders, staff, Board Members, & partners !