



Fish Habitat Partnership Coordination

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U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Fish and Aquatic Conservation Program

NFHP Board Meeting
May 1, 2024



FISHHABITAT.ORG

WHY NFHP?

- In the early 2000's, the SFBPC noted that, despite significant investments in aquatic habitat work, fish habitat continued to decline
- They identified silos among those working on aquatic habitat conservation as the key reason for the lack of progress



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

Hawaii

Puerto Rico & U.S. Virgin Islands

Note: Alaska and islands not to scale
Includes current fish habitat partnerships, approved by the NFHP Board, June 2016.

at Partnership Accomplishments For internal use only

Total Projects
200

NFHP Investment
\$8.1M

Federal Leveraged
\$17.1M

Non Federal Match
\$30.5M

Proposed
13

Active
37

Completed
143

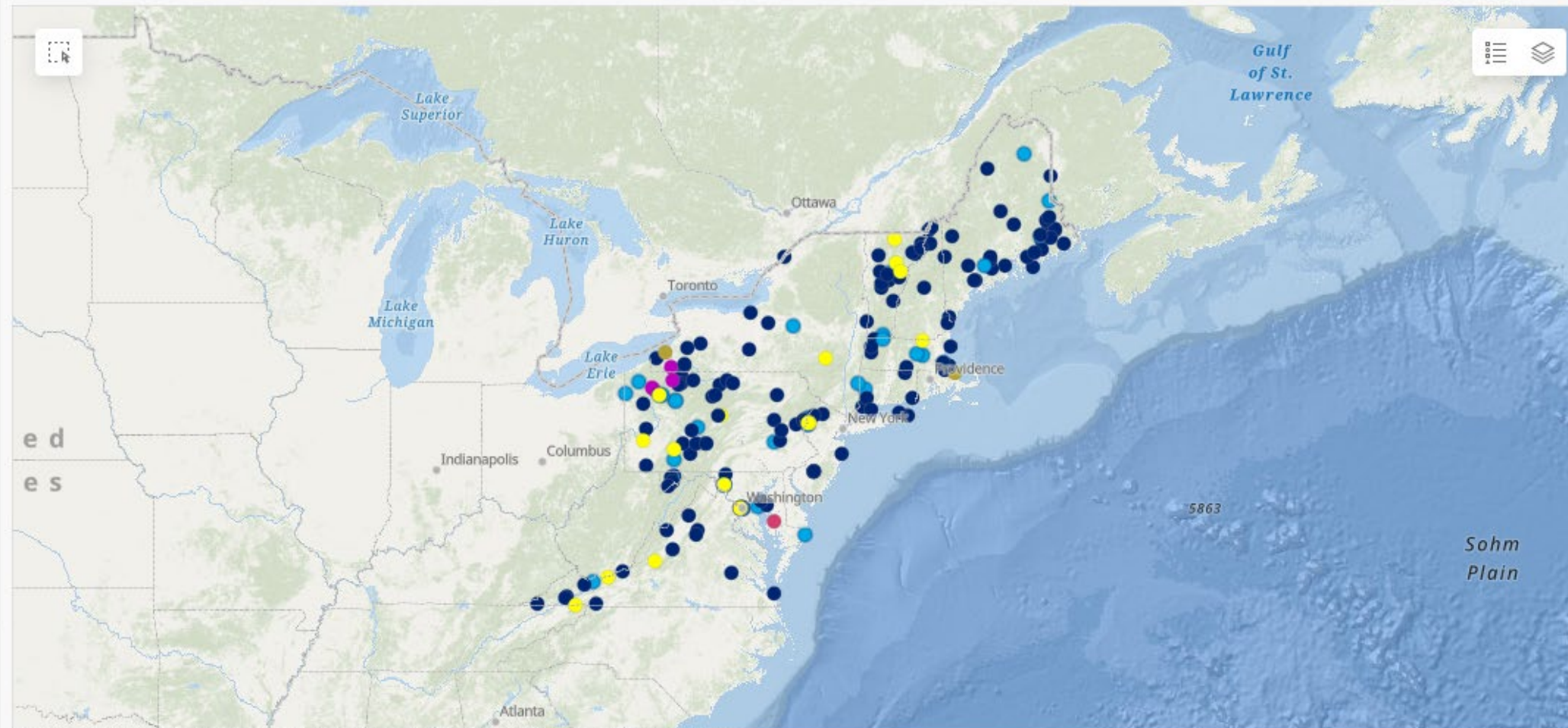
Total Leveraged Funds
\$61.4M

Other Leveraged Funds
\$9.4M

Non-Federal Match Ratio
3.8

Investment

Proposed



Esri, GEBCO, Garmin, NaturalVue | Esri, TomTom, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, EPA, USFWS

Powered by Esri

Map

MEANS OF COORDINATION

FHP MEETINGS
AND
SYMPOSIA

STAKEHOLDER
OUTREACH

SCIENCE AND
DATA
PRODUCTS



A FEW EXAMPLES.....

- SEAKFHP- FEDERAL HIGHWAYS BIL AOP PROJECT PRIORITIZATION
- PMEP, PLCI, CFPF JOINT SYMPOSIUM ON BARRIERS TO TIDAL CONNECTIVITY
- FISHERS AND FARMERS WATERSHED LEADERS NETWORK WORKSHOP
- FRIENDS OF RESERVOIRS ANNUAL MEETING
- MAT- SU SALMON SCIENCE SYMPOSIUM



Aquatic Connectivity Teams in the Southeast

Southeast Aquatic Resources Partnership



SARP Program Areas

Restoration

Coastal

Planning, Research,
and Assessment

Aquatic Connectivity

- Inventory and Prioritization
- Barrier Assessment Training
- Aquatic Connectivity Teams

What is an Aquatic Connectivity Team (ACT)?

- Interdisciplinary, inter-organizational units that serve as the statewide leaders in aquatic connectivity efforts.
- **Purpose** - bring together a wide range of partners to establish a community of practice that supports and accelerates removal of aquatic barriers within the state.
- **Mission** - restore connectivity, habitat, and ecological function to streams of the state by identifying, assessing, and facilitating removal of barriers to aquatic species passage.
- **Objectives** - 1) identify high-priority aquatic barrier removal projects, 2) implement aquatic barrier removal projects, and 3) encourage sound policies and regulations for aquatic barrier removal and prevention.

General Structure of an ACT

Team lead (and co-lead)

Facilitator (SARP)

ACT Partners

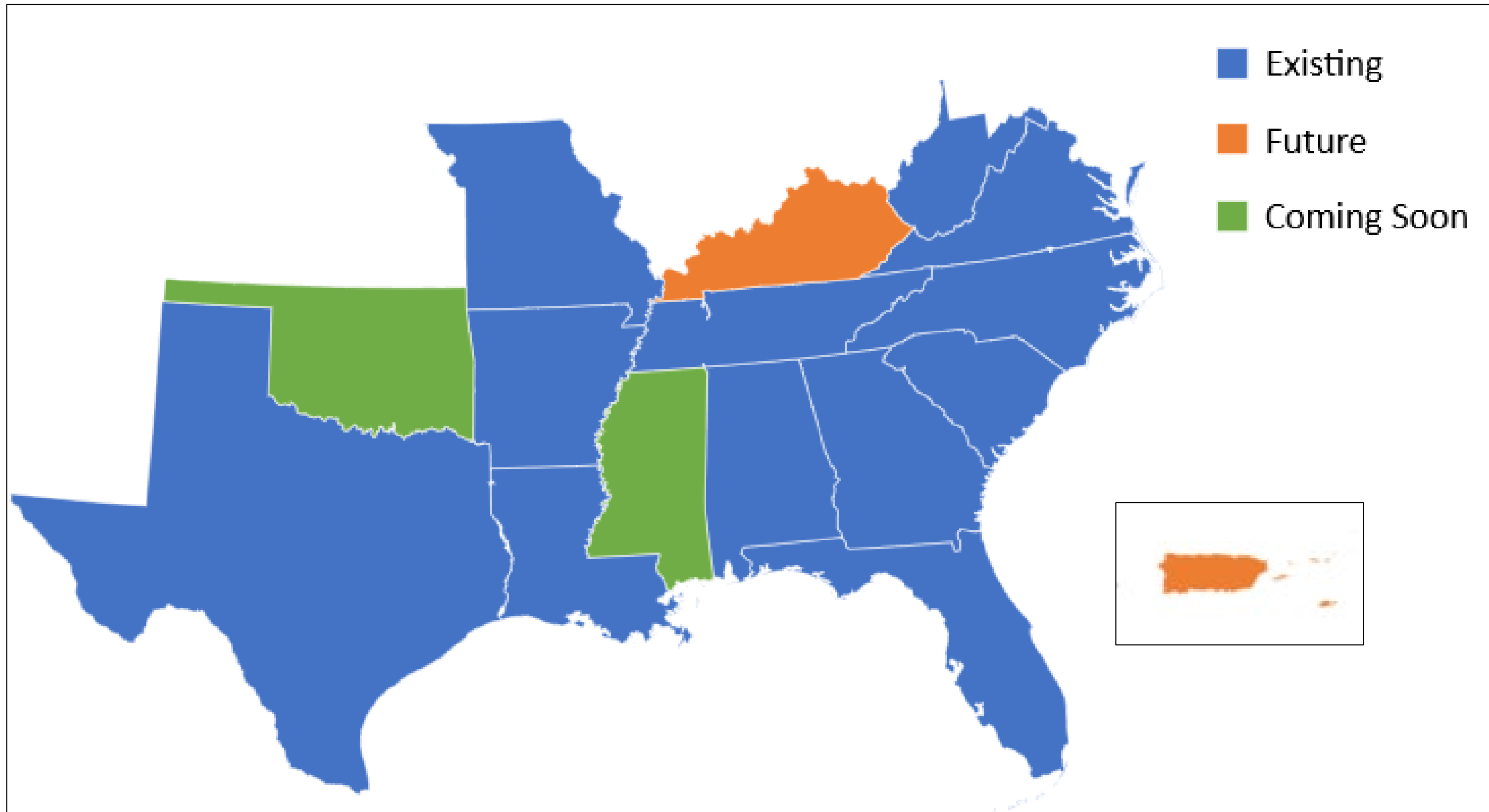
Subcommittees

- Road-stream barrier inventory
- Dam removal
- Education/Outreach
- Policy

ACT Membership

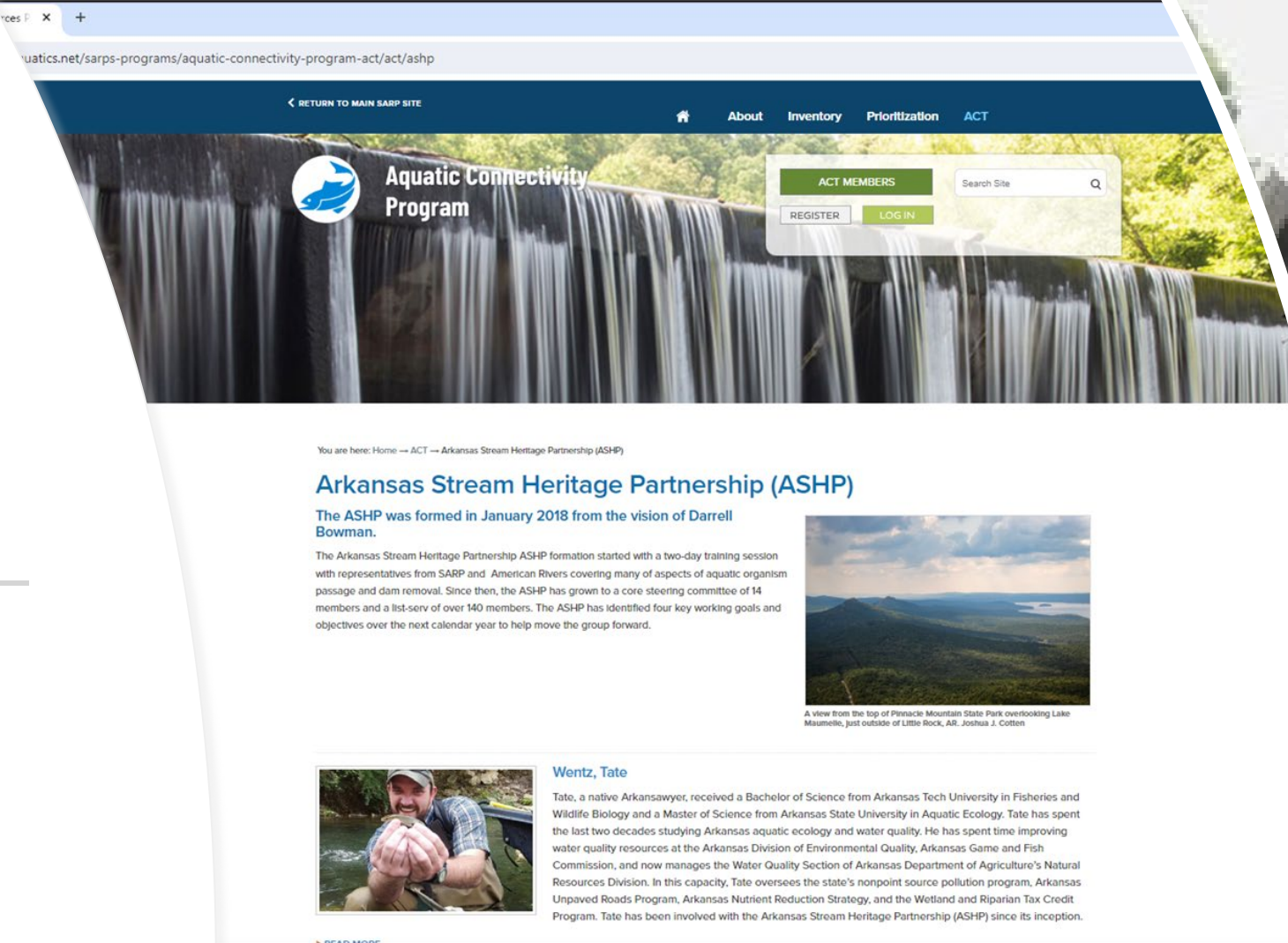
- Federal Agencies
 - USFWS
 - USFS
 - NRCS
 - USGS
 - NOAA
 - NPS
- State Agencies
 - Fish and Wildlife
 - State Heritage Program
 - DOT
 - Water Quality/Water Resources
- Universities
- NGOs (AR, TNC, TU, watershed coalitions, river keepers, etc.)
- Tribal Nations
- Private Landowners

Aquatic Connectivity Teams in the Southeast



SARP's Role

- Help establish ACTs
- Logistical Support
- Meeting Support



Interagency Engagement

ACFHP is a member of various council groups, collaboratives, and initiatives focused on habitat conservation along the Atlantic coast.



2024

Habitat and Ecosystem

The South Atlantic Fishery Management Council (SAFMC or Council) works to conserve habitats and their ecosystem functions to ensure the long-term sustainability of fishery resources by identifying and protecting habitats.

- SAFMC Habitat & Ecosystem Advisory Panel – ACFHP has made contributions to the EFH User's Guide for S. Atlantic

Interagency Engagement



North Carolina -> Maine



Erin Shields

VA Steering Committee
Representative

she/her/hers

Assistant Research Scientist
at CBNERR-VA/Virginia
Institute of Marine Science,
located in Gloucester Point,
VA. Erin's areas of expertise
are water quality,
monitoring, aquaculture
and SAV interactions,
freshwater SAV, brackish
SAV, and seagrass.

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Sara Sweeten

VA Steering Committee
Representative

she/her/hers

Research Scientist at
Virginia Tech, located in
Blacksburg, VA. Sara's areas
of expertise are restoration,
monitoring, aquaculture
and SAV interactions,
freshwater SAV, and
Vallisneria.

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Virginia Members



Simen Kaalstad

he/him/his

Director for the Atlantic
Coastal Fish Habitat
Partnership at the Atlantic
States Marine Fisheries
Commission, located in
Arlington, VA. Simen's areas
of expertise are restoration,
monitoring, mitigation, and
advocacy.

skaalstad@asmfc.org



Chris Patrick

he/him/his

Associate Professor,
Director, SAV Restoration &
Monitoring Program at
Virginia Institute of Marine
Science, located in
Gloucester Point, VA. Chris's
areas of expertise are
restoration, monitoring,
mitigation, aquaculture and
SAV interactions, freshwater
SAV, brackish SAV, seagrass,
and Community
Ecology/Fauna within SAV
Meadows & Ecosystem
Processes.

cpatrick@vims.edu

Interagency Engagement



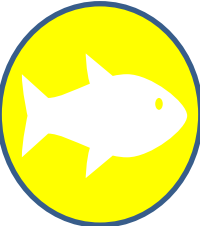
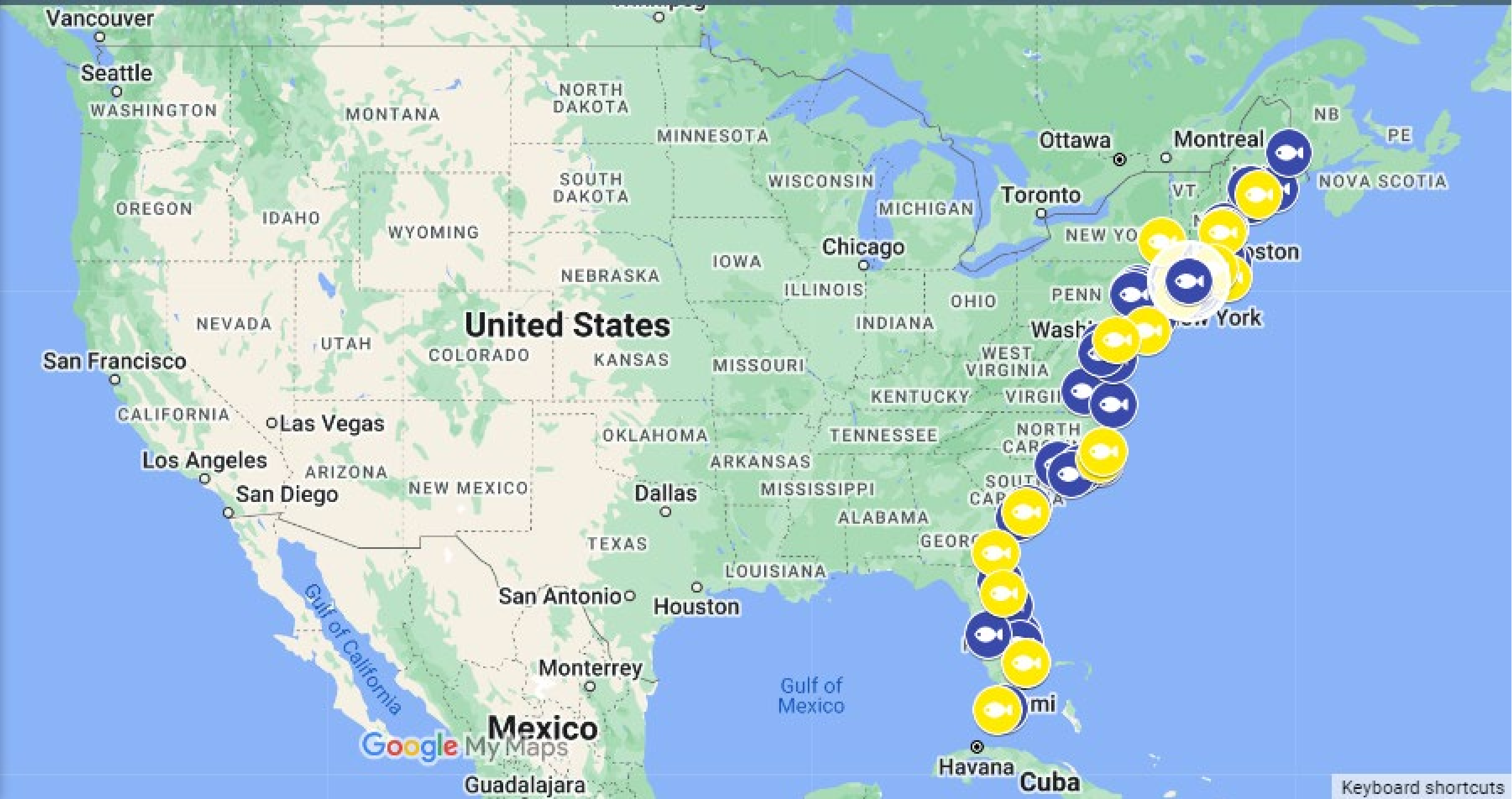
SASMI Coalition | SASMI (marshforward.org)

A diverse network of appx. 300 partners from local, state and federal stakeholders from academia, governmental agencies, communities and nongovernmental organizations

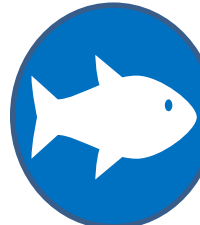
North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia and Florida.

Project Endorsements

2024

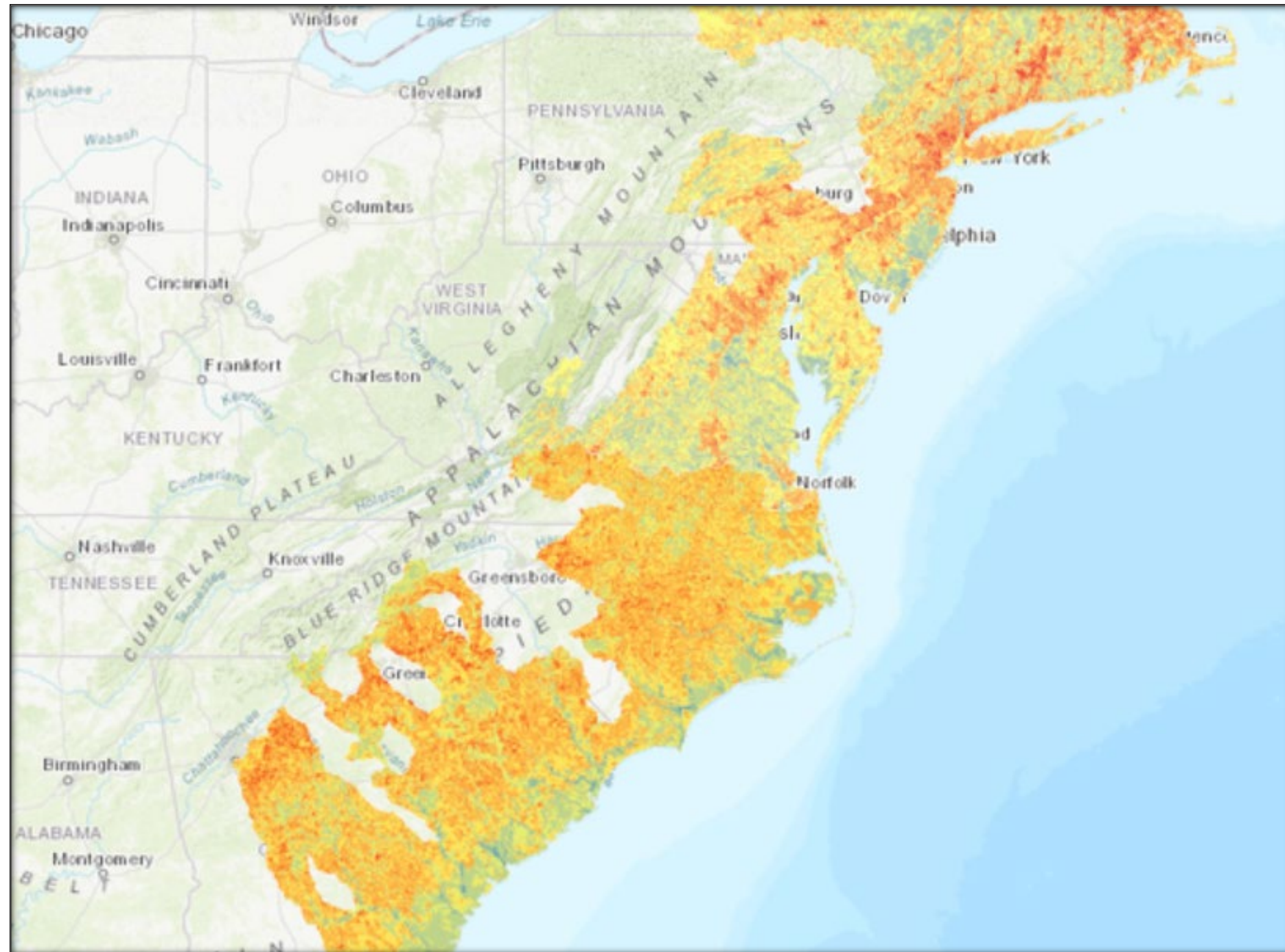


Endorsed Projects





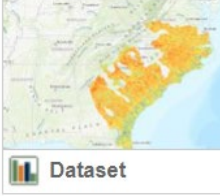
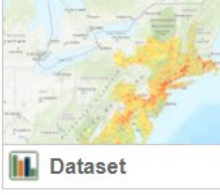
Funded Projects

Science & Data



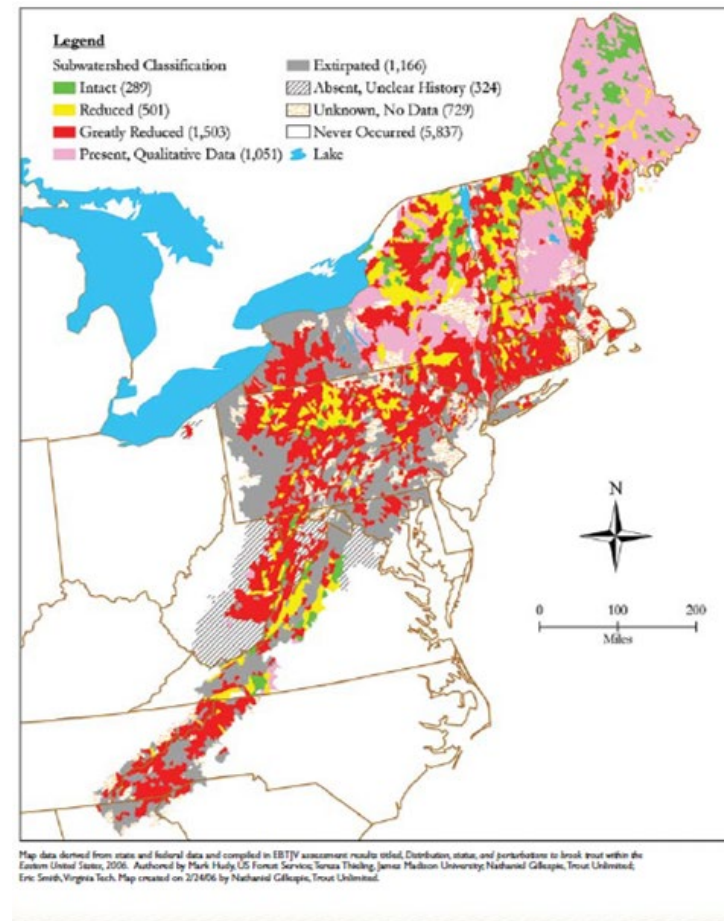
Fish Habitat Conservation Area Mapping and Prioritization Project (2020)

Datasets Used (10) | Map Details

- **North Carolina Strategic Habitat Areas (SHA)**
North Carolina Strategic Habitat Areas, NC DEQ,
<http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/mf/habitat/SHAs>
North Carolina Strategic Habitat Areas, NC DEQ,
<http://portal.ncdenr.org/web/mf/habitat/SHAs>
Kat Hoenke (August 8, 2018)
- **South Atlantic Estuarine Analysis**
Kat Hoenke, Jessica Graham, Jen Walters, Lisa Havel
ACFHP South Atlantic Estuarine Conservation Prioritization Scenario. Metrics include seagrass, oyster, wetland, 303D, causeways, and development
Kat Hoenke (Last modified June 29, 2020)
- **South Atlantic Diadromous Analysis**
Kat Hoenke, Jennifer Walters, Jessica Graham, Lisa Havel
Atlantic Coastal Fish Habitat Partnership (ACFHP) Southeast Map Series: Anadromous Protection Prioritization Scenario, 07/18/2018
Kat Hoenke (Last modified June 29, 2020)
- **Mid-Atlantic Diadromous Analysis**
Erik Martin, TNC
Mid-Atlantic Diadromous Analysis Results, ACFHP
Kat Hoenke (Last modified September 4, 2020)



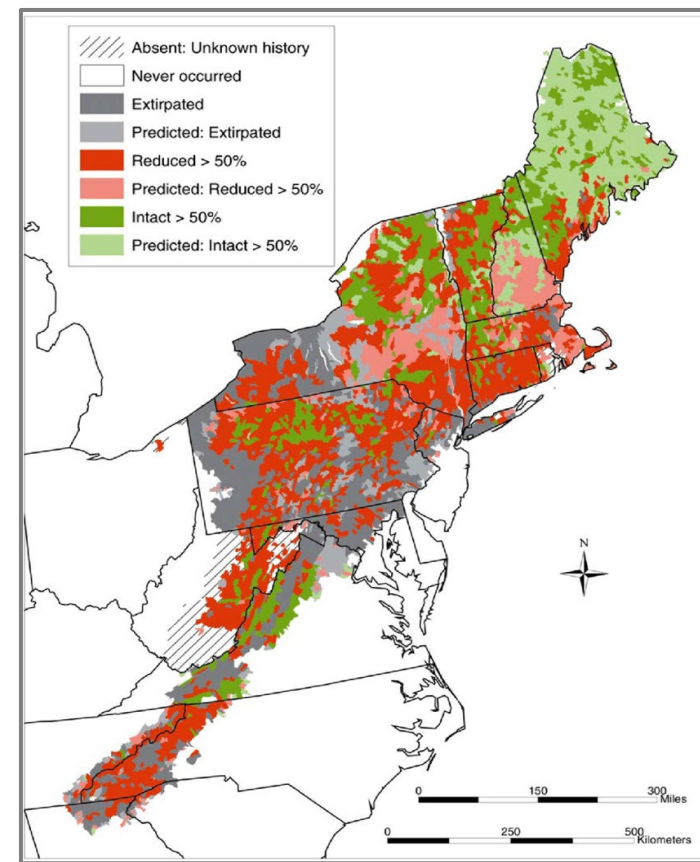
EBTJV's Brook Trout Assessment



2006

Eastern Rangewide Status Assessment

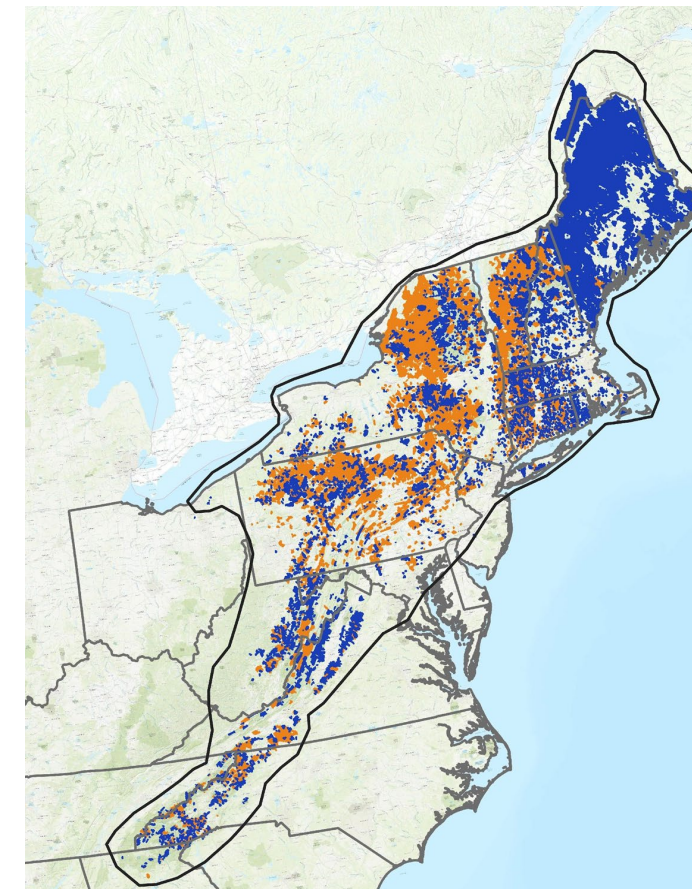
Subwatershed (12-digit HUC)
– pink = lots of missing data



2008

Predicted Rangewide Status Assessment

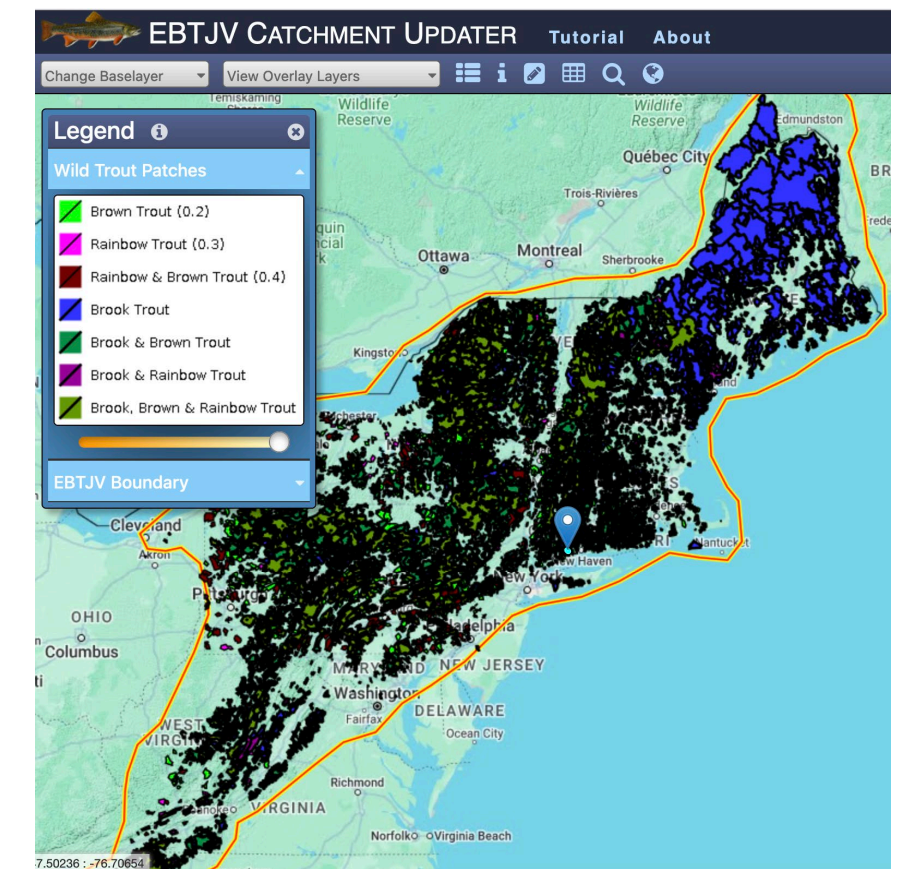
CART to predict and fill in the map; importance of forest



2015

Rangewide Status Assessment

Catchment (2-5km) and patch (aggregating catchments) scale



2024

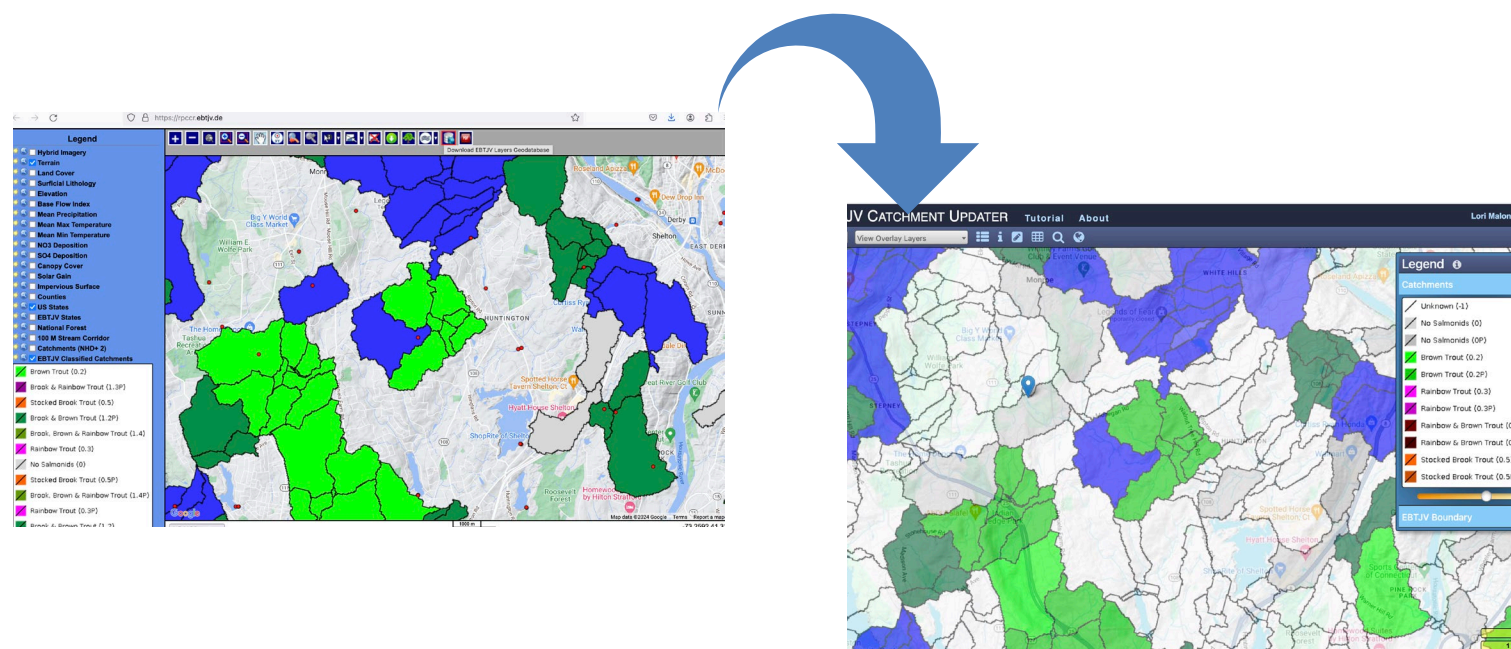
Rangewide Status Assessment

Catchment and patch scale,
Web-based application makes annual updates possible

EBTJV Catchment Data - What analyses are possible?

Short-term

- 2016 vs. 2023 catchment and patch metrics – what changed



- Progress towards numeric goals for occupancy
- Summaries by state or broader region

To explore later:

- "Why" - explain the changes we see
- Layer other habitat data such as landuse or temperature
- Compare occupancy with abundance data
- Reflect on multi-state collaboration and conservation efforts. Can we assemble data on projects done 'for Brook Trout' at the catchment scale?

Use of EBTJV assessment: Brook Trout as a priority species

Users of EBTJV assessment:

- States (in different ways).
- NFWF business plans.
- Trout Unlimited (component of Eastern Brook Trout Conservation Portfolio).
- Chesapeake Bay Program Brook Trout Outcome – based on EBTJV patch size.
- US Fish and Wildlife Service
 - Occupancy of Brook Trout is one component in decision making for priority watersheds.



ACFHP'S MASSACHUSETTS PARTNERS



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Members

Friends of Reservoirs Membership Reaches 130 Chapters and Groups in 30 States!


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Chapters

Groups

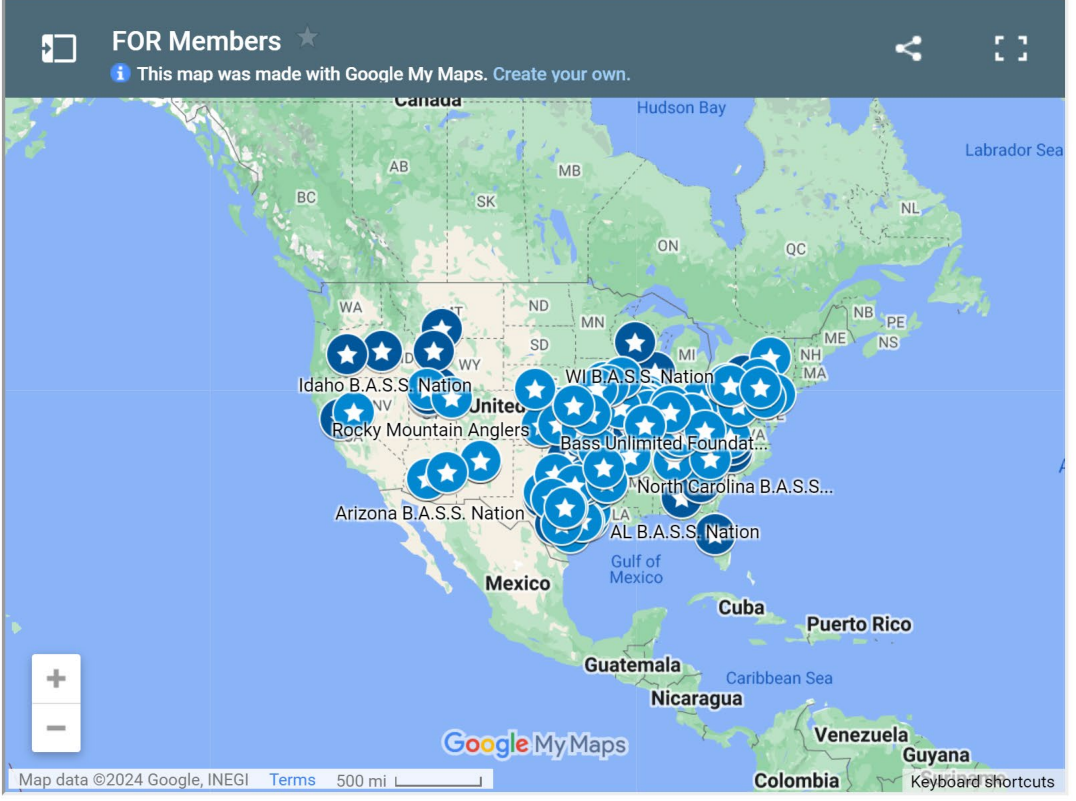
Kansas Community Fishing Assistance Program Members

Thanks to our sponsor!



In the News

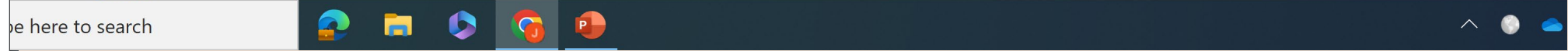
Cedarville High School Fish Habitat Project at Lake Fort Smith



FOR Members

This map was made with Google My Maps. Create your own.

Map data ©2024 Google, INEGI Terms 500 mi



What Limits Coordination?

- Current coordination capacity is 0.25–1 FTE per FHP
 - U.S. JV's have 3–17 FTE's
- If ACE 2.0 passes as written, Board will be able to fund coordination without 1:1 match
 - In FY25, coordination grant limit increases from \$85,000 to \$125,000

UPCOMING WEBINAR

The History and Founding Purpose and Vision of the National Fish Habitat Partnership

CHRISTOPHER ESTES

MAY 15 2PM ET

[LINK](#)

Meeting ID: 294 606 895 088

Passcode: 6xwcjv

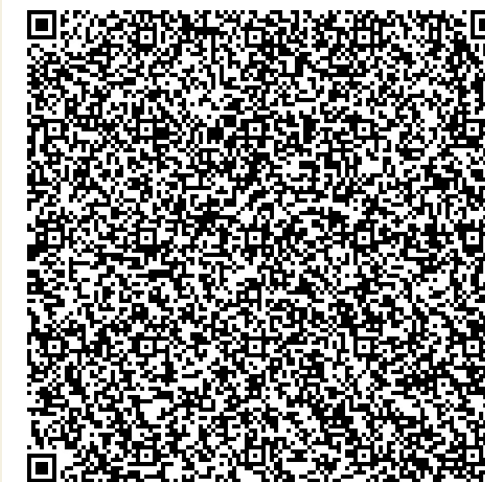
Or

Dial-in by phone

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Phone conference ID: 315 691 638#



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PARTNERSHIP

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- TO WHAT EXTENT HAS THE SILO DILEMMA BEEN SOLVED OVER THE PAST 20+ YEARS AND WHAT REMAINS TO BE ACCOMPLISHED?
- WHAT CAN THE BOARD DO, COLLECTIVELY OR AS REPRESENTATIVES OF YOUR ORGANIZATIONS OR AGENCIES, TO ENHANCE THE FHP'S ABILITY TO BREAK DOWN SILOS IN THEIR REGIONS AND BETTER COORDINATE AMONG ALL POTENTIAL PARTNERS (state, federal, tribal, corporate, NGO)?

