



NATIONAL
**FISH
HABITAT**
PARTNERSHIP

Board Meeting Book

February 28 - March 1, 2023
Washington, D.C.

Hosted by:



ASSOCIATION *of*
FISH & WILDLIFE
AGENCIES



National Fish Habitat Board Meeting

Tuesday, February 28 – Wednesday March 1, 2023
1100 First Street NE 8th Floor (across from AFWA suite #825)
Washington, D.C. 20002

Day 1 Agenda

Zoom Link: <https://fishwildlife-org.zoom.us/j/88127609668?pwd=UE1DV0lVUm1SZVVMVJVVWEtnTnVOdz09>

Phone: 301-715-8592

Meeting ID: 881 2760 9668

Tuesday, February 28, 2023

Time (ET)	Agenda Item	Board Book Tab	Lead(s)
9:00	Welcome, Icebreaker, & Attendance <i>Desired outcomes:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Introduction of new Board Chair and thank you to outgoing Board Chair.● Board staff to take attendance.● Board action to approve the February 28-March 1 meeting agenda.● Board action to approve the November 29, 2022 draft meeting summary.● Icebreaker activity	Tab 1	Robert Boyles (<i>Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, Board Chair</i>) Board Staff
10:00	2023 NFHP Board Meeting Schedule & NFHP Calendar <i>Desired outcomes:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Board staff to remind the Board of the 2023 NFHP Board Meeting schedule.● Board awareness of the NFHP calendar.	Tab 2	Alex Atkinson (<i>Board Staff, NOAA Fisheries</i>)
10:15	NFHP Board Member Appointment Process <i>Desired outcomes:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Board staff to update the current Board on the ongoing appointment process to solicit applicants for vacant Board seats.		Shannon Boyle (<i>NFHP Governance Committee Board Staff, USFWS</i>)

10:30	<p>Board Review, Discussion, & Vote of Board Member Applicants (EXECUTIVE SESSION) <i>Desired outcomes:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Board members discuss all Board member applicants in Executive Session (<i>Zoom breakout to be provided for Board members only</i>). ● Board members vote to select Board members for any vacant or expired seats. 	Tab 3	<p>Robert Boyles (<i>Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, Board Chairman</i>)</p> <p>Board members</p>
12:00	<p>Lunch</p>		
1:30	<p>Thank you to Ed Schriever! <i>Ed will join us virtually for an opportunity to thank him for his long-time service to NFHP and Board leadership over the last 3 years.</i></p>		<p>Ed Schriever and All</p>
1:45	<p>USFWS Update <i>Desired outcomes:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Board awareness of the status of FY23 project funds. ● Board awareness of the plan for FY23 FHP project administration and any other updates from the USFWS. 		<p>Steve Guertin (<i>USFWS, Board Member</i>)</p>
2:00	<p>Congressional Designation FHP Application <i>Desired outcomes:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Board awareness of the status of the FHP application and FHP feedback into the process. ● Board awareness of the next steps for the FHP application. ● Board action to approve approach for FHPs applying for Congressional Designation. 	Tab 4	<p>Carter Kruse (<i>Board member, Turner Enterprises</i>)</p> <p>Steve Perry (<i>Board member, EBTJV</i>)</p> <p>Stan Allen (<i>NFHP Partnerships Committee Co-Chair, Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission</i>)</p>
2:30	<p>BREAK</p>		

2:45 **Beyond the Pond Visioning Session**

Desired outcomes:

- **Board awareness** of Beyond the Pond's relationship
- Key discussion questions:
 - What is the vision for Beyond the Pond?
 - What are the next steps in Beyond the Pond's organizational development?

Kelly Hepler (*Beyond the Pond Board Chair*)

NFHP Board Members

4:00 **Adjourn**

4:30-
6:30 **Happy Hour at [Wunder Garten](#) (1101 First St NE, Washington, DC 20002)**

National Fish Habitat Board Meeting

1100 First Street NE 8th Floor (across from AFWA suite #825)
Washington, D.C. 20002

Day 2 Agenda

Zoom Link: <https://fishwildlife-org.zoom.us/j/88127609668?pwd=UE1DV0lVUm1SZVVFMVJVVWEtnTnVOdz09>

Phone: 301-715-8592

Meeting ID: 881 2760 9668

Wednesday, March 1, 2023

Time (ET)	Agenda Item	Board Book Tab	Lead(s)
9:30	Welcome & Attendance		Robert Boyles (<i>Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, Board Chairman</i>)
			Board Staff
	NFHP Board Committee Updates		
9:45	Science & Data <i>Desired outcomes:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Board awareness of National Fish Habitat Assessment options. Board awareness of NFHP Project Tracking System. 	Tab 5	Gary Whelan (<i>Board Staff, Science and Data Committee Co-Chair, MI Department of Natural Resources</i>) Kate Sherman (<i>Board Staff, PSMFC</i>) Daniel Wieferich (<i>Board Staff, Science and Data Committee Co-Chair, USGS</i>)
10:15	Partnerships <i>Desired outcomes:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Board awareness of shifts in Committee leadership and membership. Board awareness of the status of the draft FHP project submission form. Board awareness of plans for an FHP workshop in December 2023. 	Tab 6	Stan Allen (<i>NFHP Partnerships Committee Co-Chair, Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission</i>) Joe Nohner (<i>NFHP Partnerships Committee Co-Chair, MGLP Coordinator</i>)

10:45

Governance

Desired outcomes:

- **Board awareness** of Governance Committee activities and objectives for 2023.

Bryan Moore (NFHP Partnerships Committee Co-Chair, Trout Unlimited)

Doug Austen (NFHP Governance Committee Chair, AFS)

Shannon Boyle (NFHP Governance Committee Board Staff, USFWS)

11:15

BREAK

11:30

Policy

Desired outcomes:

- **Board awareness** of Policy Committee activities and objectives for 2023.
- Hill Visit
- ACE Act Amendment Tracking
 - Draft list
 - Joint Policy Committee / FHP Coordinator Call

Tim Schaeffer (NFHP Policy Committee Chair, PA Fish & Boat Commission)

Kate Sherman (Board Staff, PSMFC)

12:00

Communications

Desired outcomes:

- **Board awareness** of NFHP Branding Guidance and Logo Guide
- **Board awareness** of the NFHP Communications Calendar for FY23

Tab 7

Johnny LeCoq (NFHP Communications Committee Chair, Fishpond)

12:30

Lunch

1:30 –
4:00

Work Time for Committees to Meet In-Person

4:00

Adjourn



National Fish Habitat Board Meeting
 1100 First Street NE 8th Floor (across from AFWA suite #825)
 Washington, D.C. 20002

Day 2 Agenda

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	NFHP Board Committee Updates		
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Shannon Boyle (NFHP Governance Committee Board Staff, USFWS)

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Tim Schaeffer (NFHP Policy Committee Chair, PA Fish & Boat Commission)

Kate Sherman (Board Staff, PSMFC)

12:00

Communications

Desired outcomes:

-

Tab 7

Johnny LeCoq (NFHP Communications Committee Chair, Fishpond)

12:30

Lunch

1:30 – 4
PM

Work Time for Committees to Meet In-Person

4:00

Adjourn

NFHP Board Meeting DC Logistics – Travel & Dining

Meeting Location:

Address – 1100 First Street NE (8th Floor) Washington DC

Building Security:

We have security at the building. Please enter and provide your name at the desk. They will have name tags for you. You will be free to enter and leave the building freely with your name tag. Please follow the same procedure on day two of the meeting.

Metro:

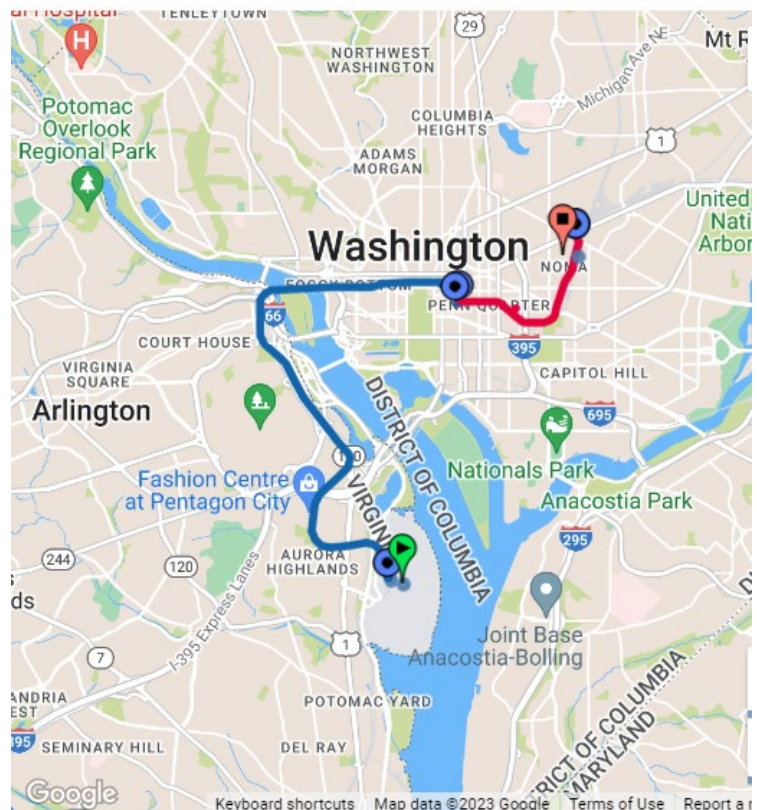
<https://wmata.com/>

The meeting location is in between the Union Station stop and the NOMA stop on the (Red Line). A closer walk from NOMA to the hotel and meeting location. (8 minute walk).

***Please note that the yellow line is not running if you would like to take the metro from Regan airport to the meeting, you can take Blue Line to Red Line.*

MAP LEGEND

Origin Destination Transfer



DC Restaurant Options for Dinner:

Tuesday Happy Hour will be at [Wunder Garten](#) 1101 First St NE, Washington, DC 20002

Union Market (15 minute walk) - <https://unionmarketdc.com/>

Laos In Town (7 minute walk) - <https://www.laosintown.com/qr-menu>

Indigo (Indian) (7 minute walk) - <https://www.indigowdc.com/>

National Fish Habitat Board Meeting

Tuesday, November 29, 2022

Agenda

1:00 – 5:00 PM ET

Zoom Link: <https://fishwildlife->

org.zoom.us/j/82793951366?pwd=TYG2WTRXUmc4UkhCMGM4Q2MrTGlaZz09

Board Members:

1	Allen	Stan	X
2	Austen	Doug	X
3	Bowden/Gottlieb	Allison /Sara	X
4	Boyles	Robert	-
5	Cantrell	Chris	-
6	Eischeid	Ted	X
7	Gilliland	Gene	X
9	Guertin	Steve	X
10	Conley	Kim	X
11	Kinsinger	Anne	X
12	Kruse	Carter	X
13	LeCoq	John	X
14	Leonard	Mike	X
15	Linnell	Karen	X
16	Moore	Chris	-
17	Moore	Bryan	X
18	Rivers	Patrick	X
19	Perry	Steve	X
20	Plumer	Christy	-
21	Rauch	Sam	X
22	Ringia	Adam	X
23	Schaeffer	Timothy D.	-
24	Schriever	Ed	X
26	Trushenski	Jesse	X

Board Staff:

- Alex Atkinson
- Shannon Boyle
- Amy Horstman
- Ryan Roberts
- Gary Whelan
- Daniel Wieferich
- Kate Sherman

Other Attendees:

- Eric MacMillan (USFWS)
- Christopher Estes
- Trevor (USFWS)
- Doug Nygren (Reservoir FHP)
- Debbie Hart (SEAKFHP)
- Joe Nohner (MGLP)
- Steve Krentz (Great Plains FHP)
- Bill Rice (USFWS)
- Therese Thompson (WNTI)
- Jennifer Graves (Desert FHP)
- Heidi Keuler (FFP)
- Lori Maloney (EBTJV)
- Jessica Hogrefe (USFWS)
- Alicia Marrs (PMEP, CA FPF)
- Sara Strassman (DARE)
- Melissa Smith (KPFHP)

Approved by Motion:

1. **September 22-23, 2022 NFHP Board meeting summary:** Motion by: Carter Kruse Second by: Stan Allen
2. **November 29, 2022 NFHP Board meeting agenda:** Motion by: Doug Austen, Second by: Adam Ringia
3. **Communications Committee Strategy:** Motion by: Doug Austen, Second by: Stan Allen

Meeting Notes:

Time (PM ET)	Agenda Item	Board Book Tab	Lead
1:00	<p>Attendance & Welcome</p> <p><i>Desired outcomes:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Board staff to take attendance. ● Board action to approve the November 29 agenda. ● Board action to approve the September 22-23, 2022 draft meeting summary. 	Tab 1	Ed Schriever (<i>Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, Board Chairman</i>) & Board Staff

Chairman Schriever welcomed the Board and thanked the staff and committees for their work since the past Board meeting. Chairman Schriever made one amendment to the meeting agenda by adding a brief announcement from NOAA at 1:45 PM before the group voted to approve the meeting agenda. It was noted that most FHPs have their requests for proposals out at this time in preparation for the March 31 Board submission deadline to the Board.

1:20	<p>Shifting Tides & Update on NFHP Board Member Appointments</p> <p><i>Desired outcomes:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Board staff to update Board members on shifts in the Board member, FHP coordinator, and staff positions. ● Board staff to update the current Board on the ongoing appointment process to solicit applicants for vacant Board seats. 	Tab 2	Alex Atkinson (<i>Board Staff, NOAA Fisheries</i>) & Shannon Boyle (<i>Board Staff, USFWS</i>)
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Alex Atkinson noted that there have been several recent changes among Board members, Board staff, and FHP coordinators over recent months. For the Board staff, a USFWS detailee, Amy Horstman, introduced herself to the Board and will be filling in the USFWS staff role for the next four months. Recent shifts or currently vacant FHP coordinator positions were noted including Reservoir FHP, Driftless Area Restoration Effort, Kenai Peninsula FHP, Ohio River Basin FHP, and Atlantic Coastal FHP.

Shannon Boyle reminded the Board about the process that will be used to fill the currently vacant seats and the soon to expire Board member terms (5 seats). Following this Board meeting, an open solicitation will be posted on the NFHP website and on NOAA and USFWS websites. Shannon reviewed a timeline of how the solicitation and appointment will work starting with the recommendation that all new terms have a January 1 start date and a December 31 expiration. This way the staff will undertake the solicitation process on a predictable schedule rather than different times each year. New Board members would have orientation between December and February prior to attending their first Board meeting. The timeline is bulleted out below:

- Jan 1 – Board Start Date – All start on the same date
- Dec-Feb – Orientation prior to first new members first Board meeting
- Mid Feb – Winter Board Meeting

- Mid Sept – A min of 60 days prior to the Fall Board Meeting – Status of all seats and distributes open solicitation for open seats
- End of Oct – A min of 30 days before Fall Meeting – Applications due to info@fishhabitat.org
- First week of Nov – GC screens apps and organizes package for Board
- Early Nov – 21 days before – Apps to Board for review and consideration
- Late Nov – Fall Board Meeting – Board evaluates apps and votes on Board seats
- Dec 31 – Board Team Expiration Date

The Board staff and members of the Governance Committee have not yet discussed how to handle terms that do not currently have a January 1 start date and December 31 expiration date.

- 1:30 **2023 NFHP Board Meeting Schedule** Tab 3 **Alex Atkinson** (*Board Staff, NOAA Fisheries*)
- Desired outcomes:*
- **Board staff to** present the draft 2023 NFHP Board Meeting schedule and solicit input from Board members.

Alex Atkinson shared with the Board the draft 2023 NFHP Board meeting schedule that was developed keeping in mind ACE Act deadlines and key timing for major FHP activities while also doing our best to avoid conflicting meetings, travel, and conferences. The draft schedule includes 2 virtual (June & September) and 2 in-person meetings (February & December). The staff recommends meeting in-person in February, as usual. However, the second in-person meeting is recommended for early December (location TBD) so the Board can use that face time to vote on new Board members given the number of upcoming expiring terms. The Board staff requests that Board members contact Board staff to notify us of any concerns or known conflicts with the draft 2023 NFHP Board meeting schedule.

- 1:45 **NOAA NFHP Informal Funding Opportunity is Open!**
- Desired outcomes:*
- **Board awareness of** the informal NOAA NFHP funding opportunity (\$150K) that is currently open.

Sam Rauch notified the Board that NOAA Fisheries will again offer an informal funding opportunity to the Fish Habitat Partnerships in support of project proposals that support both habitat and engage the recreational fishing community. The opportunity is open now through February 10, 2023. Sam reminded the Board of qualifying criteria for proposals, projects must:

- Be located in and coordinated with a Fish Habitat Partnership.
- Actively engage recreational fishing partners in habitat protection or restoration.
- Focus on habitat restoration, protection, or research for saltwater or diadromous species.
- Be achievable within the provided timeline and budget and provide project updates to NOAA when requested.

This is NOAA's fifth year funding these projects and NOAA has support 16 NFHP projects over the last four years.

- 1:50 **USFWS Update** **Steve Guertin** (*USFWS, Board Member*)
- Desired outcomes:*

- **Board awareness of** any updates from the USFWS including the plan for FY23 FHP project administration and any other updates from the USFWS.

Steve Guertin reminded the Board that Shannon Estinoz approved the FY23 list of fish habitat conservation projects and we are now in a holding pattern until the FY23 appropriations are determined through the Federal budget process. We are on a continuing resolution through mid-December and once the appropriations level is finalized, NFHP will need to finalize the list of funded FHP projects since some projects may have received funding from other sources since they were submitted to the Board last March. Steve noted the great progress on Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funding coordination and implementation and thanked AFWA and the FHP community for engaging with the USFWS over the recent months. He also noted the importance of the Interagency Operational Plan (IOP) to coordinate across Federal agencies including Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, and others.

Steve also informed the Board that the USFWS has a detailee, Amy Horstman, who will fill in for the next 4 months while the Service backfills for Mike Bailey's position.

2:00 **USFWS/FHP Relationships**

Desired outcomes:

- **Board awareness of** the results of individual phone calls with FHPs.

Tab 4

Stan Allen (*NFHP Partnerships Committee Co-Chair, Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission*), & **Bryan Moore** (*NFHP Partnerships Committee Co-Chair, Trout Unlimited*)

Stan Allen and Bryan Moore presented a summary of results from their 20-30 minute phone interviews with all of the FHP coordinators about USFWS coordinator positions, fiscal sponsorships, and overall support from the USFWS. The results show that 6 FHPs have USFWS employed FHP coordinators and the USFWS serves as the fiscal sponsor for 11 FHPs while 8 FHPs have another fiscal sponsor setup. 1 FHP has the ability to act as their own fiscal sponsor or has a third party who could. All FHPs indicated a positive working relationship with their USFWS representatives and identified several areas where they could use further support from the USFWS. FHPs indicated they'd like more training on Grant Solutions, permitting, and accounting. Following the report out there was some Board discussion about what the takeaway action items are following these interviews and how to fill capacity gaps. Overall, these interviews went a long way to pin down FHP needs for the USFWS and the Chairman expressed an appreciation to all the FHP coordinators for taking the time to participate and for Stan and Bryan for leading this effort.

2:15 **Congressional Designation FHP Application**

Desired outcomes:

- **Board awareness of** the status of the FHP application and FHP feedback into the process.

Tab 5

Carter Kruse (*Board member, Turner Enterprises*), **Steve Perry** (*Board member, EBTJV*), & **Stan Allen** (*NFHP Partnerships Committee Co-*

- **Board awareness** of the next steps for the FHP application.

Chair, Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission)

Carter Kruse presented the progress on the FHP application for Congressional designation to the Board. Carter reviewed the timeline for when this application is expected to be finalized by the Board (spring 2023) following the late winter approval of an updated Action Plan by the Board. FHPs have submitted comments on this form and the group has requested Board input on this form by **January 24, 2023**. The next steps for this sub-group of the Partnerships Committee are to meet in January and continue to improve the applications form by incorporating Board feedback and present the final form to the Partnerships Committee in January for adoption by the Board at the end of February.

Kate Sherman also added to this update by sharing what the Policy Committee discussed during their meeting regarding the strategy for submission FHPs to Congress for designation. The Policy Committee felt that submitting all 20 FHPs to Congress together could reduce confusion, however, submitting 1-2 initially could be helpful to gain insight from what is wanted from Congressional staff. The Committee also discussed having educational meeting with hill staffers in mid-February. These FHP designation packages would be submitted to the Committee Chairpersons of Senate Energy and Public Works and House Natural Resources, who have yet to be named. The Policy Committee discussed that approaching Congress sooner rather than later is beneficial to get this completed and would want to get this submission process started by late 2023. There was some need for clarification that all FHPs have existing strategic plans and some are undergoing updates to those plans and an additional question of whether there has been any survey done to inquire whether all FHPs will seek Congressional designation. Finally, Chairman Schriever reminded the Board members that, per the ACE Act, Board recommendations of the Board are subject to a two-thirds majority vote, not a simple majority.

2:40 USFWS Funding Announcement

Shannon Boyle presented the USFWS funding opportunity for \$38 million in funding. Letters of intent are due to the National Fish Passage Program regional coordinators by December 16, 2022. Formal criteria can be found in the [Notice of Funding Opportunity here](#).

2:45 NFHP Board Committee Updates

Science & Data Committee

Desired outcomes:

- NCPs (20 minutes) – Board awareness & feedback on initial set of metrics.
- Assessment design (15 minutes) – Awareness of survey & feedback on design.
- Project Tracking database (10 minutes) – Board awareness of improvements & feedback.

Tab 6 **Gary Whelan** (*Board Staff, Science and Data Committee Co-Chair, MI Department of Natural Resources*) & **Daniel Wiefelich** (*Board Staff, Science and Data Committee Co-Chair, USGS*)

Gary Whelan presented the progress of the Science and Data Committee to develop a draft set of metrics to apply to the National Conservation Priorities adopted by the Board in September. The draft list of metrics was open for input from the FHPs until the Board meeting. This list of draft metrics will

be circulated to all Board members following the Board meeting. Not all FHPs will be required to measure all of these metrics, these are meant to serve as a menu for ways to quantify progress.

Gary also presented the results of the additional survey responses following the September Board meeting about the desires for the next National Fish Habitat Assessment. Survey responses from Board members, SDC members, and FHPs do not present a united front about how to proceed developing the next habitat assessment. The Board discussed the audience and funding the assessment as well as challenges with using and merging available datasets. Gary also recognized that the assessment will require updating data layers and adding in missing data such as lakes and reservoirs and linking inland assessments to estuaries. There is some general agreement among the Board that the audience for the assessment is individuals with awareness of fish habitat and its declines across the country. The SDC plans to scope three assessment scenarios (no new threshold, update current threshold, automated approach using AI) and present them to the Board at the next meeting to firm up the assessment plan.

Finally, Kate Sherman shared updates with the Board about the ongoing upgrades to the NFHP Project Tracking database that will be used to collect FHP FY24 Fish Habitat Conservation project submissions this year. All FHPs tested the online entry form and provided feedback to aid in its development. In early 2023, Kate will offer trainings for FHP coordinators to get used to the new data entry system. These upgrades to the NFHP Project Tracking database will allow staff to perform quick data queries, easily obtain all project summaries filtered using various criteria, and track funded and unfunded projects.

3:30

Communications Committee

Tab 7

Johnny LeCoq (NFHP
Communications Committee
Chair, Fishpond)

Desired outcomes:

- **Board awareness** of Communications Committee Strategy.
- **Board vote** to approve the Communications Strategy elements and future work of the Committee.

Johnny LeCoq presented the draft high level Communications Committee Strategy for the Board. The Strategy outlines the charge of the committee to oversee consistent and effective communication aligned with the NFHP mission and brand. The goal of the strategy is to raise awareness by partners, Congress, and public to the conservation projects and benefits of NFHP. It also outlines communication channels and tools that will be used. The Strategy does not yet include Beyond the Pond and the Executive Committee will be discussing the role and remaining questions about Beyond the Pond soon. There was some Board discussion about the social media platforms that are currently being used to elevate our messaging. There was recognition that this Strategy will be further fleshed out into more detailed tasks such as developing a graphic and brands standards manual for consistency in NFHP messaging and style. The Board voted to adopt the Communications Committee Strategy as presented.

NFHP received FY23 Multistate Conservation Grant funds to implement various communications upgrades (\$78K in total - \$40K for NFHP website & \$8K storymap, \$10K for fact sheet templates, \$15K for a video, \$5K for NFHP Map redevelopment). It was noted that NFHP is lacking dedicated communications staff to get this done. The Committee will serve in an advisory role on communications efforts.

3:45

Partnerships Committee

Desired outcomes:

- **Board awareness** of progress on revising the Action Plan.
- Report to Congress
- **Board awareness and discussion** of plans and updates for the FY24 FHP project and reporting submissions.

Tab 8

Stan Allen (NFHP Partnerships Committee Co-Chair, Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission),
Bryan Moore (NFHP Partnerships Committee Co-Chair, Trout Unlimited), &
Alex Atkinson (Board Staff, NOAA Fisheries)

Stan Allen and Alex Atkinson presented an update on behalf of the Partnerships Committee. They touched on the three main Committee tasks including the Action Plan, Report to Congress, and the process for FHPs to submit FY24 project proposals. Alex indicated the Action Plan team had an initial meeting to discuss the purpose and audience for the Action Plan and the group agreed to maintain certain aspects of the Action Plan and develop audience specific long- and short-form versions. The 2022 NFHP Report to Congress, due by February 1, 2023, will be a joint effort between the Policy Committee (advisory role) and the Partnerships Committee (drafting role). Finally, the FY24 FHP project submissions are due to the Board by March 31, 2023 and the Committee is working to streamline the submission form that FHPs will use to outline accomplishments and progress. This updated form should reduce the burden on staff and Board reviewers who read all of the submissions. Stan requested Board member volunteers to assist with the FY24 review of FHP project proposals and the following Board members volunteered: Carter Kruse, Pat Rivers, Gary Whelan, Steve Perry, and Jesse Trushenski.

4:00

Governance Committee

Desired outcomes:

- **Board awareness** of Attorney Team and tasks.
- Board Member solicitation (process, timeline)
- **Board discussion** of Vice Chair.

Tab 9

Shannon Boyle (NFHP Governance Committee Board Staff, USFWS)

Shannon Boyle updated the Board on the status of Governance Committee progress since the last Board meeting. 5 Board seats need to be filled and she described the ad hoc process the Board will be using to specifically fill those 5 seats that will begin with the posting of the solicitation letter on the NFHP website after this Board meeting. NOAA and USFWS will also post information about these vacant seats and the application process on their websites. Ryan Roberts will perform additional targeted outreach to individuals and organizations who may have an interest in filling the available Board seats. In advance of the next Board meeting, all application packages for prospective Board members will be distributed to current Board members for their review. Board members whose terms are expiring will be asked by Board staff if they are interested in continuing to serve so they can be considered with the pool of other interested applicants.

The Governance Committee has also formed an attorney advisory group (NOAA, DOI, and AFWA) who will assist the Board with any legal questions related to policies, procedures, and Beyond the Pond (501©3) engagement. The Committee discussed and recommend that the NFHP Board elect a Vice Chair and that the Vice Chair position be open to all non-Federal Board members. This role has

historically been a state representative who could later assume the role of Chairman after a term as Vice Chair. The Committee plans to develop a procedure for the Board to elect a Vice Chair to present to the Board at the next Board meeting.

4:30

Policy Committee

Desired outcomes:

- **Board awareness** of Policy Committee activities.
- **Board discussion** of annual report feedback and ACE Act amendments.

Tab 10

Tim Schaeffer (NFHP Policy Committee Chair, PA Fish & Boat Commission) and **Kate Sherman** (Board Staff, PSMFC)

Kate Sherman presented an update on recent Policy Committee activities to the Board, on behalf of the Chair of the Policy Committee, Tim Schaeffer. The Committee met in mid-November and discussed a few topics:

- **Annual report to Congress due February 1, 2023.** The policy committee agreed that a short letter from the NFHP Board Chair to the Chairs of the Senate EPW and House NRC is appropriate. The letter should indicate that there are no changes to FHP's and highlight how NFHP is making progress towards ACE Act implementation. The letter can highlight topics such as progress towards submitted for FHP approval by Congress, and how NFHP can be a conduit for funding and sharing information (NCTC workshop example). Members of the policy committee will use the letter as an opportunity to meet with Congressional committee staff (once new staff are appointed) in mid-February.
- **Bringing FHP's to Congress for reauthorization.** The committee discussed strategies for bringing FHP's to Congress. They discussed timing, with the sooner the better. Policy committee members will discuss this topic with Congressional staff to get a sense on what the best approach would be and what it should look like. They expect that the package of information on FHP's will be submitted to the Chairs of the Senate EPW and House NRC committee, the same as the annual report to Congress. Once submitted, they expect a formal letter back from both committees with approval.
- **Tracking ongoing clarifications or amendments to the ACE Act for reauthorization.** The Policy committee will keep track of amendments/clarifications to the ACE Act. Please send feedback on this topic to Kate Sherman (ksherman@psmfc.org) and Tim (tischaeffe@pa.gov). The Policy committee plans to have a joint FHP – Policy committee call in April or May to get FHP level feedback on this topic.

5:00

Adjourn

Finally after the Policy Committee, Chairman Schriever revisited the issue of Vice Chair for the Board. Chairman Schriever announced his upcoming retirement on February 10, 2023 and reminded the Board that the Chairman role is defined in the Act to be appointed by AFWA. Chairman Schriever has had over a decade of experience with NFHP and brought much institutional knowledge into his time as Board Chairman. He noted his confidence in the current momentum among the Board, Board Committees, staff, and FHPs and that there is plenty of work to still be done. We thank Ed for his engagement in and service to NFHP over the years and wish him the best in his retirement.

2023 NFHP Board Meeting Schedule

= in-person Board meeting
 = virtual Board meeting

February 28 – March 1 – in person
 June 13 – virtual

October 12 - virtual
 December 5-7 – in person

Timing	Potential Date for NFHP Meeting	Draft Topics to be Covered	Known Conflicts
February/March 2023 In-person 2 day	Tuesday, February 28 – Thursday, March 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Committee updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EXCOM • SDC • Governance • Policy • Partnerships • Communications • Budget • Board FY24 project selection process • Next NFHP Assessment • Follow up on BIL & priorities (work groups) • NFHP Action Plan • FHP session 	WAFWA Winter Meeting January 4-10 AFS Southern Division Meeting February 1-5 AFS North Central Division Meeting February 12-15 Federal Fisheries Summit February 21-24 RBFF Marketing Workshop February 27- March 1 Oregon AFS Meeting February 27 - March 3 North American Wildlife and Natural Resource Conference and AFWA Meeting March 20-24 NEAFWA April 30-May 2, 2023
June 2023 Virtual Half day	Tuesday, June 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Committee updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EXCOM • SDC • Governance • Policy • Partnerships • Communications • Approve FHP FY24 project list for submission to Secretary of Interior • NFHP Action Plan • FHP session 	AFS Western Division May 7-11 MAFWA Meeting late June 2023 in WI WAFWA Summer Meeting July 9-14, 2023

<p>September Virtual Half day</p>	<p>Tuesday, September 12</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Committee updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EXCOM • SDC • Governance • Policy • Partnerships • Communications • NCPs – any revisions? • Scoring criteria of project submission – finalize project submission for FHP RFPs • FHPs to Congress – Board to discuss submitted FHP applications • IOP • FHP session 	<p>AFS Annual Meeting August 20-24 (Grand Rapids, MI)</p> <p>AFWA Annual Meeting September 23-27 (Calgary)</p> <p>SEAFWA Meeting October 15-18, 2023</p>
<p>December In-person 2.5 day in coordination with an FHP Workshop</p>	<p>Tuesday, December 5 – Thursday, December 7</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Committee work plans for following year: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EXCOM • SDC • Governance • Policy • Partnerships • Communications • Approve 2023 Annual report • IOP • FHP workshop • Field trip to FHP project 	

[Link to NFHP Canva Calendar](#)

Ryan created a 2023 monthly calendar for all of NFHP that includes Board meetings, Committee meetings, FHP calls, and key deadlines. Pasted below, please find a snapshot of March and April for planning purposes. Contact Ryan Roberts to add anything to the NFHP calendar.



NFHP Communications Calendar

MARCH 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
26	27	28	1 NFHP Board Meeting Washington DC	2 NFHP Board Meeting Washington DC	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13 NFHP Annual Report Released (Tenative)	14	15 FHP Coordinators Meeting (Post-Board Meeting)	16	17	18
19	20 Deadline for content for monthly newsletter	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31 FHP Deadline to Board for projects ----- March NFHP Newsletter Distribution Date	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	



NFHP Communications Calendar

APRIL 2023

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12 FHP Coordinators Meeting	13	14	15
16	17 Deadline for content for monthly newsletter	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28 April NFHP Newsletter Distribution Date	29
30	1	2	3	4	5	6



Board Member Appointment Process

Background: Given that the Board has not appointed any new Board members since its establishment in early 2021, this document will clearly outline the Board member candidate review, discussion, and vote process that will be followed at the upcoming Board meeting. **We ask that all Board members please familiarize themselves with this process in advance of the meeting.**

The ACE Act indicates “that no recommendations may be adopted by the Board, except by the vote of two-thirds of all members”. As such, a two-thirds affirmative vote by all NFHP Board members is required to elect a Board member (see ACE Act language sections below for bill excerpts).

The Board staff opened up a broad solicitation for Board member candidate applications from December – mid-January and received 6 candidate applications. It was advertised through NFHP’s distribution list, the NOAA website and FishNews email distribution list, the USFWS website, and beyond. We did not receive any candidate Board member applications for the industry seat and encourage Board members to inform staff of any potential partners who would be interested in serving.

Below is a list of the currently vacant and expired Board member terms and their represented groups. Bryan Moore, Mike Leonard, and Gene Gilliland all would like to be considered for re-election in their respective seats. Alison Bowden is not seeking re-election.

Currently vacant:

1. Industry (no applicant currently for this seat)

Term expired in 2022:

1. Bryan Moore (habitat conservation organization)
2. Mike Leonard (recreational sportfishing industry)

Term expired Feb 2023:

1. Alison Bowden (habitat conservation organization)*
2. Gene Gilliland (freshwater recreational anglers)

**indicates Board member not seeking re-election*



Board Member Appointment Process:

1. At ~10:30 AM ET on February 28th, the Board will move into Executive Session (Board members only).
2. In Executive Session, the staff will briefly introduce all candidate Board members whose application information has been sent to Board members for their review in advance of the meeting.
3. In Executive Session, the Board will discuss the candidate Board members and their qualifications.
4. Upon completing their discussion, the Board will move back to public session and hold a vote to elect the Board members for the four seats representing: habitat conservation organization (x2), recreational sportfishing industry, and freshwater recreational anglers.
5. The Board Chair is a voting member of the NFHP Board.
6. New Board members will receive a welcome letter from the Chair following the February 29 – March 1 Board meeting and will join the Board virtually at their next meeting on June 13th.

ACE Act Language about Board vacancies:

(4) VACANCIES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—A vacancy of a member of the Board described in subparagraph (H), (I), (J), (K), (L), (M), (N), or (O) of subsection (a)(2) shall be filled by an appointment made by the remaining members of the Board.

(B) TRIBAL REPRESENTATIVES.—Following a vacancy of a member of the Board described in subparagraph (G) of subsection (a)(2), the Secretary shall recommend to the Board a list of not fewer than three Tribal representatives, from which the remaining members of the Board shall appoint a representative to fill the vacancy.

(5) CONTINUATION OF SERVICE.—An individual whose term of service as a member of the Board expires may continue to serve on the Board until a successor is appointed.

(6) REMOVAL.—If a member of the Board described in any of subparagraphs (H) through (O) of subparagraph (a)(2) misses three consecutive regularly scheduled Board meetings, the members of the Board may—

(A) vote to remove that member; and

(B) appoint another individual in accordance with paragraph (4).



ACE Act Language about Board procedures:

(e) PROCEDURES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Board shall establish procedures to carry out the business of the Board, including—

(A) a requirement that a quorum of the members of the Board be present to transact business;

(B) a requirement that no recommendations may be adopted by the Board, except by the vote of two-thirds of all members;

(C) procedures for establishing national goals and priorities for fish habitat conservation for the purposes of this title;

(D) procedures for designating Partnerships under section 204; and

(E) procedures for reviewing, evaluating, and making recommendations regarding fish habitat conservation projects.

(2) QUORUM.—A majority of the members of the Board shall constitute a quorum.



**National Fish Habitat Board
INSTRUCTIONS FOR SUBMITTING A
FISH HABITAT PARTNERSHIP APPLICATION**

The form for submitting a Fish Habitat Partnership application begins on the third page. If you have questions about these instructions or the form, please contact Alex Atkinson at 301-427-8710 or alex.atkinson@noaa.gov.

Applications must be submitted by the deadline established by the National Fish Habitat Board. Contact Alex Atkinson for submission deadline(s).

Submit an **electronic copy** of the completed application and all supporting materials via a *(to be determined)* web-based file sharing method.

- Assign a file name that clearly identifies the Partnership the application pertains to. For example, WNTI 2023.pdf. If multiple files are submitted as part of the application, assign file names that clearly identify the Partnership and section(s) and/or subsection(s) of the application (as provided below) the file pertains to. For example, WNTI 2023 Sections 1-3.pdf.
- Provide files in both PDF format and Microsoft Word format.

Do not exceed the specified maximum length for each section of narrative.

America's Conservation Enhancement Act (2020) - Section 204. Fish Habitat Partnerships

Note: This section of the ACE Act includes the purposes, criteria, and requirements for a Fish Habitat Partnership and Partnerships should be familiar with this section relative to completing this application.

(a) Authority to Recommend. The Board may recommend to Congress the designation of Fish Habitat Partnerships in accordance with this section.

(b) Purposes. The purposes of a Partnership shall be (1) to work with other regional habitat conservation programs to promote cooperation and coordination to enhance fish populations and fish habitats; (2) to engage local and regional communities to build support for fish habitat conservation; (3) to involve diverse groups of public and private partners; (4) to develop collaboratively a strategic vision and achievable implementation plan that is scientifically sound; (5) to leverage funding from sources that support local and regional partnerships; (6) to use adaptive management principles, including evaluation of project success and functionality; (7) to develop appropriate local or regional habitat evaluation and assessment measures and criteria that are compatible with national habitat condition measures; and (8) to implement local and regional priority projects that improve conditions for fish and fish habitat.

(c) Criteria for Designation. An entity seeking to be designated by Congress as a Partnership shall— (1) submit to the Board an application at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Board may reasonably require; and (2) demonstrate to the Board that the entity has— (A) a focus on promoting the health of important fish and fish habitats; (B) an ability to coordinate the implementation of priority projects that support the goals and national priorities set by the Board that are within the Partnership boundary; (C) a self-governance structure that supports the implementation of strategic priorities for fish habitat; (D) the ability to develop local and regional relationships with a broad range of entities to further strategic priorities for fish and fish habitat; (E) a strategic plan that details required investments for fish habitat conservation that addresses the strategic fish habitat priorities of the Partnership and supports and meets the strategic priorities of the Board; (F) the ability to develop and implement fish habitat conservation projects that address strategic priorities of the Partnership and the Board; and (G) the ability to develop fish habitat conservation priorities based on sound science and data, the ability to measure the effectiveness of fish habitat projects of the Partnership, and a clear plan as to how Partnership science and data components will be integrated with the overall Board science and data effort.

(d) Requirements for recommendation to Congress. The Board may recommend to Congress for designation an application for a Partnership submitted under subsection (c) if the Board determines that the applicant— (1) meets the criteria described in subsection (c)(2); (2) identifies representatives to provide support and technical assistance to the Partnership from a diverse group of public and private partners, which may include State or local governments, nonprofit entities, Indian Tribes, and private individuals, that are focused on conservation of fish habitats to achieve results across jurisdictional boundaries on public and private land; (3) is organized to promote the health of important fish species and important fish habitats, including reservoirs, natural lakes, coastal and marine environments, coral reefs, and estuaries; (4) identifies strategic fish and fish habitat priorities for the Partnership area in the form of geographical focus areas or key stressors or impairments to facilitate strategic planning and decision making; (5) is able to address issues and priorities on a nationally significant scale; (6) includes a governance structure that— (A) reflects the range of all partners; and (B) promotes joint strategic planning and decision making by the applicant; (7) demonstrates completion of, or significant progress toward the development of, a strategic plan to address declines in fish populations, rather than simply treating symptoms, in accordance with the goals and national priorities established by the Board; and (8) promotes collaboration in developing a strategic vision and implementation program that is scientifically sound and achievable.



**National Fish Habitat Board
FISH HABITAT PARTNERSHIP APPLICATION
AND EVALUATION FORM**

Date:

PARTNERSHIP INFORMATION

Partnership Name:

Primary Contact (address, email, and phone):

Partnership web site:

Mission/Vision statement:

HISTORY (250 word maximum)

Note: Provide a brief background on the Partnership.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY (500 word maximum)

Note: Provide a summary of this application by briefly restating the high point(s) of each section.

SECTION 1. Demonstrate how your Fish Habitat Partnership promotes the health of important fish and fish habitats. (up to 1000 words)

Note: Promote is broadly interpreted here to include on-the-ground restoration, maintenance, construction, conservation, or preservation of fish or fish habitats, as well as outreach, education, and research regarding Partnership projects, fish or fish habitat issues, the National Fish Habitat Partnership, or Board's national priorities.

Note: Throughout this application the term project is intended to mean discrete or individual projects solicited by the Partnership, as opposed to a group of projects presented as a package to the Board on an annual basis.

- a. Describe the focus or purpose around which your Partnership is organized. For example – reservoirs, natural lakes, coastal and marine environments, coral reefs, estuaries, native species, etc.
- b. Describe how the geographic boundaries of your partnership were determined and why these boundaries are the most appropriate to achieve effective regional prioritization of habitat needs and to demonstrate success in strategically addressing those needs.
- c. Provide the goals, objectives, and priorities of your Partnership and describe how these promote fish and fish habitats.
- d. Describe how you solicit and select priority fish or fish habitat projects.
- e. Describe the type and amount of outreach/education your Partnership conducts or proposes to conduct.
- f. Provide summary statistics demonstrating numbers and types of fish or fish habitat projects implemented over the history of your Partnership (use provided spreadsheet for reporting). Discuss how this demonstrates the capacity of your Partnership to conduct fish and fish habitat work moving forward.
- g. Provide a brief description of at least two example projects your Partnership has conducted in the recent past that demonstrates your capacity to successfully implement projects that promote the health of important fish or fish habitats.

SECTION 2. Demonstrate your Fish Habitat Partnership's ability to coordinate the implementation of priority projects that support the goals and national priorities set by the Board that are within your geographic boundary. (up to 1000 words)

Note: Coordinate is interpreted here to include the activities necessary to solicit, review, prioritize, select, contract (with Partnership or partner acting on Partnership behalf), inspect, monitor, and report on fish habitats projects; it does not include those activities required to implement or conduct the project.

- a. Describe the organizational structure of your Partnership and the duties and responsibilities of each position and organizational layer, individually and/or collectively.

- b. Describe how your Partnership's priorities that guide project solicitation and selection (for funding) are established and support the national priorities set by the Board.
- c. Describe how project implementation is coordinated by your Partnership (i.e., how does the Partnership itself or key partners take care of the steps – e.g., *contracting, oversight, review and inspection, fund disbursement* – necessary for project implementation to occur).
- d. Discuss whether your Partnership's boundaries overlap with other Fish Habitat Partnerships, and if so, how the overlapping Partnerships differentiate and/or coordinate/collaborate on fish and fish habitat projects across Partnerships.

SECTION 3. Demonstrate a self-governance structure that supports the implementation of strategic priorities for fish habitat. (up to 1000 words)

Note: Self-governance is broadly interpreted here to include governing activities conducted by the Partnership itself or activities conducted by partners in support of the Partnership (e.g., support from US Fish and Wildlife Service can be part of the governance structure).

Note: General organizational structure of the Partnership was addressed in Section 2(a) and does not need to be restated here.

- a. Describe the governance structure and the decision-making protocol(s) used by your Partnership's management board and subsidiary committees (e.g., consensus, majority vote).
- b. Describe how your Partnership conducts fiscal administration including your ability to accept, manage, track, disburse, and report on federal and state grant income.
- c. How does your Partnership governance structure promote joint strategic planning and decision-making among Partnerships or partners?
- d. Provide copies of your Partnership's governance documents (e.g., charter, memorandum of understanding, other). *Note: Strategic Plan is addressed in Section 5 below.*

SECTION 4. Demonstrate your Partnership's ability to develop local and regional relationships with a broad range of entities to further strategic priorities for fish and fish habitat. (up to 1000 words)

Note: Entities and partners are terms used interchangeably throughout this application and refer to the collection of agencies, organizations, municipalities, individuals, governments, etc. that support and work with a Partnership.

Note: We understand you may have many different partners and providing an exhaustive summary of those entities may be outside the scope this Section. Please focus on "key" partners that demonstrate the breadth and depth of your Partnership's local and regional relationships.

- a. Describe how your Partnership has reached out and engaged with partners on fish

- and fish habitat priorities and projects across the geographical extent of the Partnership, especially touching on key state and federal resource agencies, tribal entities, local communities, landowners, or private organizations.
- b. Describe your Partnership's key partners' associations and their interest/mission/philosophy in conserving fish and fish habitat, as well as their role in your Partnership's governance or operation, if any.
 - c. Provide an estimate of the overall number of partners your Partnership has worked with. If available provide a link to or a list of these entities (*not required*).
 - d. Provide at least two examples of how your Partnership has worked to bring varied partners together that resulted in improved or positive outcomes for fish and fish habitat.
 - e. Discuss how your Partnership's governance structure promotes joint strategic planning, establishment of Partnership priorities, project selection, and decision-making among the partners.
 - f. Describe the procedures in place for communicating with your partners and for recruiting additional partners.
 - g. Provide copies of letters and/or other documentation indicating support and commitment to your Partnership by key partners (e.g., federal or state agencies, Native American governments), regional Associations of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, or similar entities.

SECTION 5. Development of a strategic plan that details required investments for habitat conservation that addresses the strategic fish habitat priorities of your Partnership and also supports and meets the strategic priorities of the Board. (up to 1000 words)

- a. Describe the current status of your Partnership's strategic plan and provide either an electronic link or copy of the plan with this application.
- b. Describe the process used to identify your Partnership's strategic priorities.
- c. Summarize the strategic priorities of your partnership (e.g., priority focal areas, key stressors, or impairments).
- d. Describe how your strategic plan/priorities are used to solicit and select fish habitat conservation projects and the process for finalizing the prioritized list of projects for submission to the NFHP Board.
- e. Demonstrate that your Partnership's strategic plan addresses the following (*reference to specific sections of or language in Partnership's strategic plan is adequate*):
 - i. includes specific, measurable, achievable, time-bound goals and objectives;
 - ii. supports the national priorities established by the Board;
 - iii. connects to one or more goals and objectives of the National Fish Habitat Action Plan;

- iv. identifies desired outcomes in terms of habitat conditions and/or fish and aquatic community conditions;
- v. identifies strategic priorities in the form of geographic focus areas or key stressors or impairments, as examples;
- vi. connects priorities of the Partnership to state wildlife action plans, watershed plans, recovery plans, land and water use plans, or other regional-scale plans;
- vii. identifies fish and fish habitat information gaps and priorities for filling gaps; and
- viii. identifies conservation actions needed to address strategic priorities and achieve desired outcomes.

SECTION 6. Demonstrate your Partnership’s ability to develop and implement fish habitat conservation projects that address strategic priorities of your Partnership and the Board.

Note: The Board is satisfied that this criterion as defined in the ACE Act has been fully and sufficiently addressed in Sections 1-5, and 7 of this application. Specifically, Sections 1,2, and 5 have addressed the Partnerships ability to develop and implement fish and fish habitat projects consistent with the strategic priorities of the Partnership and the Board.

SECTION 7. Demonstrate your Partnership’s ability to develop fish habitat conservation priorities based on sound science and data, measure the effectiveness of fish habitat projects, and a clear plan as to how the Partnership’s science and data components will be integrated with the Board’s science and data efforts. (up to 1000 words)

- a. Describe how scientific information and data are used to establish your Partnership’s priorities, including how lessons learned (past project successes and failures) or information gaps are considered when developing or updating the Partnership’s priorities and project solicitations.
- b. Explain how your Partnership has organized itself and its information systems to make use of partners’ data and other data to help set habitat conservation priorities.
- c. Describe your Partnership process for tracking projects and the types of data or metrics that are collected and used by your Partnership to assess project success, measure project effectiveness (e.g., type and amount of fish habitat impacted), and report progress.
- d. With examples, describe resources and capabilities that partner organizations have made available to your Partnership to measure baseline conditions and progress in habitat conservation.
- e. Describe how your Partnership will link its assessment activities to the

Framework for Assessing the Nation's Fish Habitat.

- f. Describe the technical and financial resources your Partnership has to support its assessment work.
- g. Provide documentation or examples of how your Partnership manages information that is provided by partners or other sources.
- h. Provide documentation of resource assessments conducted by your Partnership.

Title: Science and Data Committee Report

Desired Outcomes:

- **Board understanding** of the SDC direction for the 2025 National Fish Habitat Assessment.
- **Board understanding** of the status of the NFHP Project Tracking System.
- **Board understanding** of SDC work on metrics for the current National Conservation Priorities.

2025 National Fish Habitat Assessment Scoping

Overview: The ACE Act requires that the Board report to Congress on the condition of the nation's aquatic habitat by 2025 and to fill the gaps in the National Fish Habitat Assessment (Assessment). One gap specifically noted in the ACE Act is the omission of socioeconomic data with other gaps noted in hydrology, grazing intensity, and timber extraction from previous Assessment discussions. To accomplish this ACE Act reporting task, the Board's desired Assessment needs to be fully scoped by mid-2023. The SDC started this process at the June 2022 Board meeting with an overview of existing assessment products and an associated survey. Further background was also provided, and available, in the June 2022 and subsequent Board Meeting Books. Currently a reevaluation of FHP data products is being planned for 2023 to understand availability and compatibility of regional efforts into future Assessments. At this meeting, the SDC will update the Board on the current best options for the 2025 National Fish Habitat Assessment that will have additional scoping conducted and reported on at or before the next Board meeting.

Based on the Board's and NFHP community's guidance, the target Assessment audience will be engaged and educated members of the fisheries community, government and the public. Additionally, there was mixed support for maintaining the look and feel of the 2015 Assessment to include providing a national view of the relative condition of the nation's fish habitat along with the ability to examine information on a range of geographic scales.

The SDC had a number of email exchanges on this important NFHP project and convened on February 3 to examine following assessment options:

- **2015 Approach with Updated Datasets:** Pick up where we left off from 2015 assessment, using the same approach but focusing on an "update" of available information. Where available, currently included datasets such as National Land Cover Database (NLCD) would be updated to the most recent version. New fish survey and disturbance datasets would be scoped and incorporated to include hydrology, timber harvest intensity and grazing intensity, acknowledged weaknesses from the 2015 assessment. Completed regional coastal

assessments will also be added, as available. Datasets to representing socioeconomics and climate change would be scoped/included as overlays.

- ***Focus on new habitat type(s):*** Similar to 2015 assessment but oriented to lakes, reservoirs, and inshore coastal areas, where data is available. This scenario would include a simple update of existing layers then focus on these habitat types.
- ***Similar concept to 2015 but focus analyses on Species:*** The 2015 assessment used fish community metrics and guilds to evaluate the effect of impairments. This could be shifted to key species of interest in the 2025 assessment and do a reanalysis of stressors on those species using updated datasets including filling noted gaps. We would use the same analytical approach (regression tree analysis).
- ***Full Assessment and a gap analysis of data, tools, and assessments in NFHP:*** This scenario would include a simple update of existing layers including filling noted gaps then focus on better understanding what NFHP currently has available. Assessment would identify and map out regional and national data gaps, and priorities.
- ***Assessing Conservation Project Success:*** This scenario would include a simple update of existing layers including noted data gaps then focus on identifying success of past NFHP projects. Multiple strategies would likely be needed, but a few ideas include tracking down project specific monitoring efforts and aligning non-project specific long-term monitoring with projects.
- ***Individual National Conservation Priorities (NCPs) Focus:*** This scenario would include a simple update of existing layers including noted data gaps then focus on individual NCPs. The goals would be to estimate/quantify “the issue” and primary drivers, understand the current state of the data, determine scientifically proven techniques to address the issues, and develop national tools and information with FHP needs in mind to help support regional and national NFHP efforts. Suggestion to start with one or two NCPs that have a lot of ongoing efforts to be leveraged such as connectivity.
- ***National/Regional Hybrid:*** Update 2015 Assessment including noted data gaps then add assessment and data products from FHPs. The Assessment would have FHP focus to assess what has been done and focus on FHP specific information.
- ***Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) or Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) :*** This scenario would include a simple update of existing layers including noted data gaps then align national fish habitat assessment with assessment approaches being used in IPCC or IPBES efforts. The Assessment would have a meta-analysis/synthesis that feeds into policy questions especially at the FHP level and would specifically examine questions regarding effectiveness, approaches, etc. This concept would include a synthetic compilation of the literature that provides some insights on broad national patterns.

After considering the potential for success with budget and time constraints, overall perspective of the SDC is to fully scope the following options:

- *2015 approach with updated datasets to include data to fill known data gaps (hydrology, grazing intensity, timber harvest, and socioeconomics). This approach will also add in completed regional coastal assessments, where available.*
- *2015 approach with updated datasets to include data to fill known data gaps (hydrology, grazing intensity, timber harvest, and socioeconomics) and incorporate additional large-scale habitats including lakes, impoundments, reservoirs, and coastal areas. This approach will also add in completed regional coastal assessments, where available.*
- *2015 approach with updated datasets to include data to fill known data gaps (hydrology, grazing intensity, timber harvest, and socioeconomics) with a climate/resiliency component. This approach will also add in completed regional coastal assessments, where available.*

A number of the options above that were not selected were considered to be good additional products to be developed after the 2025 assessment is completed including: adding more localized FHP assessment products; assessing gaps in the NFHP information and assessments; assessing conservation project success; focusing on individual National Conservation Priorities; assessing temporal changes in habitat conditions; and using similar assessment approaches to those used by IPCC and IPBES efforts.

Based on all of the analysis to date, the SDC will build a set of pre-proposal level analyses for each of the above selected options to include scope and budget. This will be presented to the Board at the June meeting or prior by electronic means for further review and approval.

NFHP Project Tracking System Update

- **New data entry form using ESRI Survey123 Connect was finalized**
 - Will be used to enter information about FY24 projects (March 31st) as part of their FY24 project submission report to the NFHP Board.
 - Each FHP has their own dashboard to enter and review projects.
 - *Draft* internal dashboard for summarizing and querying accomplishments.
- **NCP's and metrics**
 - NCPs and nested metrics will be tracked for each project.
 - Guided by NFHP Science & Data Committee list of recommended metrics
 - NFHP Project Tracking System will focus on expected results of projects
 - Data will “roll up” for summary statistics on NCP's and metrics
 - Identified potential metrics related to post-project monitoring evaluation (actual post-project results); these metrics are not included in the NFHP Project Tracking System.
- **NFHP Project Tracking System training**

- PSMFC is hosting 4 project tracking system trainings in March for FHP coordinators, staff, and others who want to attend.
 - March 9th from 10-12 PST
 - March 16th from 12-2 PST
 - March 23rd from 10-12 PST
 - March 28th from 10-12 PST
- **Next steps (spring and summer 2023)**
 - Finalize internal dashboard.
 - Draft public facing dashboard.
 - Update *new* database with data from the *old* project tracking database.



NFHP Partnerships Committee

Committee Members:

- Jessica Speed
- Heidi Keuler
- Deborah Hart
- Lori Maloney
- Carter Kruse
- Therese Thompson (co-chair)
- Bryan Moore (co-chair)
- Joe Nohner
- Ted Eischeid
- Karen Linnell
- Stephen Perry
- Stan Allen (co-chair)
- Alex Atkinson (Board staff support)

Committee Updates:

1. Shifts in Partnerships Committee membership

- a. Committee has lost a few member over last year (Alicia Marrs, Lisa Havel, Joe Slaughter, Jeff Boxrucker)
- b. Therese Thompson (WNTI) is passing off the co-chair role to Joe Nohner (MGLP)

2. Draft FY24 FHP Project Submission Form

- a. Staff drafted up a new project submission form – differs from former USFWS report submitted by FHPs
- b. Board review team provided feedback on the form and scoring
- c. FHPs are in process providing feedback on the form
- d. This form will be submitted by FHPs in addition to submitting their projects in the new ArcGIS project database system.

3. FHP Congressional Designation Process

- a. Did not receive comments from any Board members on the draft process for proposing FHPs to Congress that was presented at the November Board meeting.
- b. This will be part of the Committee's working session on Board meeting day 2.

4. 2023 FHP Workshop

- a. FHPs have raised an interest in planning an FHP workshop in late 2023 – in conjunction with the early December in-person Board meeting.



2022 NFHP Report to Congress



January 30, 2023

The Honorable Tom Carper
Chairman
Environment and Public Works Committee
United States Senate
513 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito
Ranking Member
Environment and Public Works Committee
United States Senate
405 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Bruce Westerman
Chairman
Natural Resources Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
202 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-0404

The Honorable Raúl Grijalva
Ranking Member
Natural Resources Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
1203 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Subject: 2022 National Fish Habitat Partnership Report to Congress on Future Fish Habitat Partnership and Modifications

Dear Chairman Carper, Ranking Member Capito, Chairman Westerman and Ranking Member Grijalva:

As Chairman of the National Fish Habitat Board, I am writing to report on the Fiscal Year 2022 progress of the [National Fish Habitat Partnership](#) (NFHP) in implementing Title II, the National Fish Habitat Conservation Through Partnerships Act, of the America's Conservation Enhancement Act (ACE Act; P.L. 116-188) that was signed into law on October 30, 2020.

NFHP's mission is to protect, restore, and enhance the nation's fish and aquatic communities through partnerships that foster fish habitat conservation and improve the quality of life for the American people. Since its establishment as a federal program in 2006, NFHP and the existing network of twenty Fish Habitat Partnerships (FHPs, *see Attachment 1*) have completed 1,283 projects spanning all 50 states (Figure 1); 74 of which were funded in Fiscal Year 2022. While NFHP has directly contributed \$50.7 million in project funding since 2006, each of those federal dollars has been leveraged over 4:1; showcasing the significant influence and value of the Partnership to maximize the effect of our conservation investments. NFHP also worked across a broad range of federal, state, university, and non-governmental organization partners to develop

two national fish habitat assessments identifying intact systems that need conservation or protection and assessing the root causes of aquatic habitat degradation in altered systems to guide future fish habitat conservation efforts.

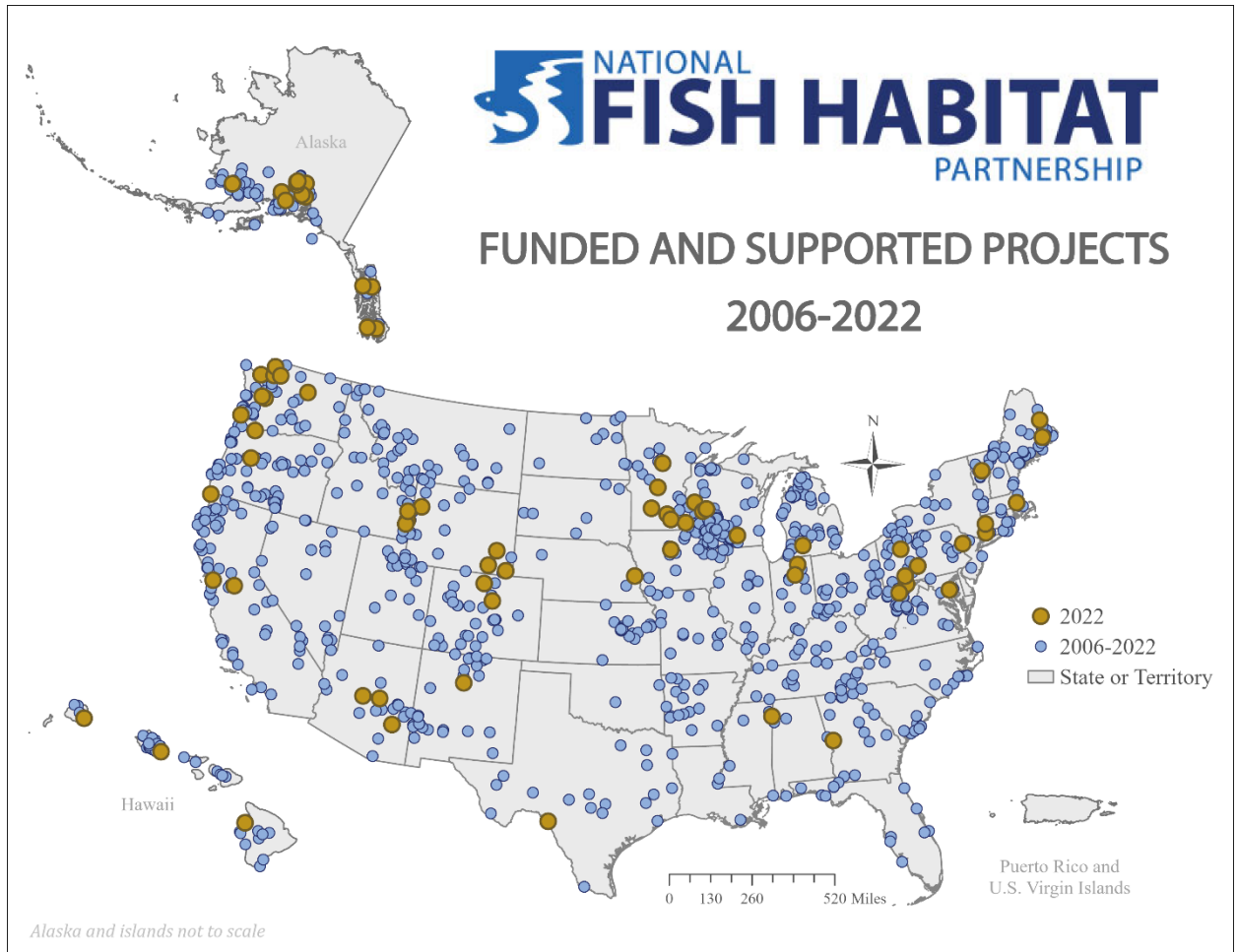


Figure 1 - NFHP funded and supported projects implemented across the United States from 2006 - present.

NFHP is implementing the provisions of the ACE Act. In early 2021, the Board received the Secretary of Interior’s recommendations for Board Tribal representatives and selected two members from that list as required by the ACE Act. The fully formed Board was excited to have



their first in-person meeting since its establishment at the National Conservation Training Center in Shepherdstown, West Virginia. During our five meetings (a combination of in-person and virtual) in Fiscal Year 2022, the Board has furthered building working relationships, discussed needed NFHP changes and key decision points within the ACE Act, established Board Committees to work on key issues, and provided guidance to the existing network of twenty FHPs. The Board also submitted the Fiscal Year 2023 project list for the Secretary of Interior's review by July 1, 2022 and it was subsequently approved on September 12, 2022. As required by the ACE Act, the Board adopted [seven National Conservation Priorities](#) at its in-person September Board meeting that were developed by the Board's Science and Data Committee with input from the Fish Habitat Partnerships. The priorities are:

1. Conserve waters and habitats where all processes and functions are operating within their expected range or natural variation.
2. Conserve hydrologic conditions for fish.
3. Conserve physical and living habitats and features that support viable and sustainable species and/or populations in impacted or at-risk systems.
4. Reconnect fragmented fish habitats.
5. Conserve water quality for fish.
6. Support the structure and function of Fish Habitat Partnerships.
7. Enhance recreational, commercial, subsistence, and traditional fishing opportunities when conducting projects that conserve fish habitat.

As stated in the ACE Act, these conservation priorities guide NFHP's fish habitat conservation work and are integral to each FHP's Congressional designation and fish habitat conservation project selection. The Board Committees established in 2021 have been very active in FY2022 by advancing progress on scientific habitat assessments, policy analysis, communications, and streamlining Fish Habitat Conservation project submission, review, and tracking in alignment with ACE Act provisions.

The FHPs have continued to advance fish habitat conservation on-the-ground in their areas of focus (*see recent projects in Attachment 2*). In addition to the Federal NFHP funding, a \$1.6 million donation was made to NFHP from Bass Pro Shops in late 2021, and with that private funding, the [Board selected nine Fish Habitat Conservation projects](#) that will improve fish habitat and angling opportunities across the country. FHPs have adjusted their operational schedules to meet the deadlines set in the ACE Act and have submitted proposed projects that met the intent of the ACE Act to the Board on time for the second year in a row including 4 tribal-led projects in two FHPs.



As envisioned by the ACE Act, NFHP continues to improve our nation's fisheries resources and aquatic habitats by leveraging funds and collaborating with a diverse network of partners to achieve shared goals. We are transitioning into the model enacted by the ACE Act while continuing to build relationships and achieve on-the-ground results. In Fiscal Year 2023, we look forward to enhancing the operations of the FHPs and Board, and beginning needed steps for Congress to approve the FHPs. The Board is working diligently on the development of a new national fish habitat assessment by 2025 as required by the ACE Act. We appreciate the support shown to this program by the Committees of jurisdiction through your leadership and other members of Congress and look forward to discussing our work further with you and your staff.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ed Schriever". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Ed Schriever

National Fish Habitat Board Chairman

Attachments:

1. Existing 20 Fish Habitat Partnerships
2. Selection of 2022 NFHP Project Photos & Descriptions

CHRIS CANTRELL

(WAFWA Representative), Arizona Game and Fish, Engineering and Construction Services Branch Chief - Term exp. 11/23

ANNE KINSINGER

(Serves by virtue of office), U.S. Geological Survey, Associate Director, Ecosystems

SAM RAUCH

(Serves by virtue of office), NOAA (National Marine Fisheries Service), Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs

ADAM RINGIA

(Tribal Representative), Southwest Tribal Fisheries Commission, Executive Director - Term exp. 2/25

JOHN LECOQ

(Corporate Industry Representative), Fishpond USA, CEO - Term exp. 2/24

CARTER KRUSE

(National Private Landowner Representative), Turner Enterprises, Director of Conservation - Term exp. 2/24

ALISON BOWDEN

(Habitat Conservation Representative), The Nature Conservancy, Conservation Director, Rivers, Coasts & Oceans - Term exp. 2/23

MIKE LEONARD

(Recreational Sportfishing Industry Representative), American Sportfishing Association, Conservation Director - Term exp. 2/22

ROBERT BOYLES

(SEAFWA Representative), South Carolina Department of Natural Resources, Executive Director - Term exp. 6/25

TIM SCHAEFFER

(NEAFWA Representative), PA Fish and Boat Commission, Executive Director - Term exp. 11/23

ROB HARPER

(Serves by virtue of office), U.S. Forest Service, Assistant Director

KAREN LINNELL

(Tribal Representative), Ahtna Intertribal Resource Commission - Executive Director - Term exp. 2/25

TED EISCHEID

(Local Government Representative), Matanuska-Susitna Borough, AK, Planner - Term exp. 2/24

GENE GILLILAND

(Freshwater Recreational Angling Representative), Bass Anglers Sportsman Society, Conservation Director - Term exp. 2/23

DOUG AUSTEN

(Science Based Fisheries Organization Representative), American Fisheries Society, Executive Director - Term exp. 2/24

CHRIS MOORE

(Commercial Fishing Representative), Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, Executive Director - Term exp. 2/24

STEVE GUERTIN

(Serves by virtue of office), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Deputy Director

PAT RIVERS

(MAFWA Representative), Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Deputy Director - Term exp. 2/25

ED SCHRIEVER

(AFWA Representative), Idaho Department of Fish & Game, Executive Director, (Board Chairman) - Term exp. 11/23

STEVE PERRY

(Landowner Representative of an active Fish Habitat Partnership) Term exp. 2/24

JESSE TRUSHENSKI

(Agricultural Production), Riverence, Chief Science Officer - Term exp. 2/24

STAN ALLEN

(Councils/Commissions), Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission, Sr. Program Manager - Term exp. 2/24

CHRISTY PLUMER

(Marine Rec. Fishing Representative), Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership, Chief Conservation Officer - Term exp. 2/24

BRYAN MOORE

(Habitat Conservation Organization), Trout Unlimited, Chief Intergovernmental Officer - Term exp. 2/22

Figure 2 – National Fish Habitat Board Membership

Attachment 1 –Existing 20 Fish Habitat Partnerships (in alphabetical order)

[Atlantic Coastal Fish Habitat Partnership](#) *(Board recognized March, 2009)*

[California Fish Passage Forum](#) *(Board recognized March, 2010)*

[Desert Fish Habitat Partnership](#) *(Board recognized March, 2009)*

[Driftless Area Restoration Effort](#) *(Board recognized October, 2007)*

[Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture](#) *(Board recognized October, 2007)*

[Fishers & Farmers Partnership](#) *(Board recognized March, 2010)*

[Great Lakes Basin Fish Habitat Partnership](#) *(Board recognized October, 2009)*

[Great Plains Fish Habitat Partnership](#) *(Board recognized October, 2009)*

[Hawaii Fish Habitat Partnership](#) *(Board recognized March, 2009)*

[Kenai Peninsula Fish Habitat Partnership](#) *(Board recognized January, 2010)*

[Matanuska Susitna Basin Salmon Habitat Partnership](#) *(Board recognized October, 2007)*

[Midwest Glacial Lakes Partnership](#) *(Board recognized March, 2009)*

[Ohio River Basin Fish Habitat Partnership](#) *(Board recognized October, 2009)*

[Pacific Lamprey Conservation Initiative](#) *(Board recognized June, 2016)*

[Pacific Marine and Estuarine Fish Habitat Partnership](#) *(Board recognized January, 2012)*

[Reservoir Fisheries Habitat Partnership](#) *(Board recognized October, 2009)*

[Southeast Alaska Fish Habitat Partnership](#) *(Board recognized March, 2014)*

[Southeast Aquatic Resources Partnership](#) *(Board recognized October, 2007)*

[Southwest Alaska Salmon Habitat Partnership](#) *(Board recognized May, 2008)*

[Western Native Trout Initiative](#) *(Board recognized February, 2008)*

Attachment 2 – Selection of 2022 NFHP Project Photos & Descriptions

Science-Focused Assessment with Management Implications

Midwest Glacial Lakes Partnership Completes Assessment of >10,000 Glacial Lakes

Coldwater lakes in the Upper Midwest support some of the region’s highest-quality fisheries. However, these coldwater habitats are in decline as the climate warms and lakes are polluted, causing the listing of some coldwater fishes by states as Endangered or Threatened. The Midwest Glacial Lakes Partnership funded and completed an assessment of over 10,000 glacial lakes to describe current and expected future habitat for coldwater fishes. The report assesses current and predicted future fish habitats and provides a basis for prioritizing limited resources for the most effective and efficient conservation of these habitats in support of these fisheries. The assessment is already being used at the state level in fisheries management to influence permitting, grant funding, population surveys, and fisheries research.

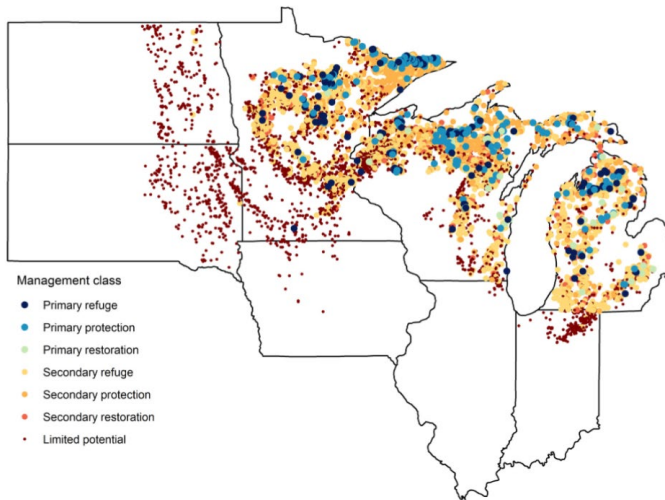


Figure 3 – Left: Management classes for resilient coldwater lake habitat as assigned by Hansen et al. 2022 in the recently-funded Midwest Glacial Lakes Partnership assessment of over 10,000 lakes. Right: MGLP Coordinator Joe Nohner shows off two Cisco caught while ice fishing on Lake Charlevoix, MI. Photo Credit: Patrick Ertel

Engaging Partners & Tribal Members

Pacific Lamprey Conservation Initiative Hosts Lamprey Summit and Information Exchange and Recommits to updated Lamprey Conservation Agreement

In December 2022, the [Pacific Lamprey Conservation Initiative \(PLCI\)](#) convened the Lamprey Summit V and the 6th Annual [Lamprey Information Exchange](#). Since 2004, partners representing tribes; federal, state, and local agencies; non-profits, and private organizations from across PLCI's geographic range (Alaska to California) have convened every four to five years to revisit the science and current status of Pacific Lamprey and recommit to working collaboratively to preserve this culturally and ecologically important species.

This year's Summit, with over 100 participants each day, focused on the five-year update to the [Pacific Lamprey Assessment](#) which evaluates Pacific Lamprey habitat conditions, population demographics, distribution, and threats every four to five years across all [18 Pacific Lamprey Regional Management Units](#) (spanning from the North Pacific Ocean and Alaska to Southern California). Partners also recommitted to the updated [2022 Pacific Lamprey Conservation Agreement](#), a cooperative commitment by natural resource agencies and tribes to leverage available resources (human and capital) to reduce threats to Pacific Lamprey in the face of climate change, and to improve their habitats and populations status, and support traditional tribal use of lamprey. Lamprey Summit V featured inspiring keynote addresses by Martha Williams, Director of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) (virtual), Wizipan Garriott, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs, U.S. Department of Interior (virtual), and Frederick Hill Sr., tribal elder and historian from the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR). Additionally, dignitaries from many of the 53 signatory and supporting organizations participated in a ceremonial signing of the 2022 Pacific Lamprey Conservation Agreement, many giving remarks expressing their support for these collaborative conservation efforts and gratitude for the opportunity to once again convene in person to discuss these important issues.



Figure 4 - Martha Williams, Director of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service delivers a keynote address during Lamprey Summit V on Dec 13, 2022 at the World Forestry Center (left). Corinne Sams, Chairwoman of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation Fish & Wildlife Commission discusses CTUIR's position on the 2022 Pacific Lamprey Conservation Agreement during Lamprey Summit V (right). Photo credit: Alicia Marrs, PLCI

Education & Outreach About Native Species

Western Native Trout Initiative Engages Anglers to Educate about Native Species

The Western Native Trout Challenge is a multi-state program hosted by the Western Native Trout Initiative in partnership with 12 western state fish and wildlife agencies that invites anglers to help celebrate our western legacy by catching native trout and char in each of the 12 participating Western states, at their own pace. By attempting to catch 18 species throughout 12 states (at the master angler level), participants can enjoy the adventure of a lifetime!

A central tenant of the program is to educate about these species, their history, management activities, and conservation status. Anglers must catch native trout in their historic range or watershed as that is part of learning about the fish. Over 1,200 people have registered for the Challenge to date. California leads the nation in registrants, followed by Utah, Colorado, and Arizona. A total of 85% of registrants are adults, and 14% are youth under the age of 18. Master Casters comprise almost 7% of Challenge completions, followed by Advanced Casters (16%) and Expert Casters (71%). A few people have completed the levels multiple times! The Western Native Trout Challenge takes participants to unique western landscapes – mountains to deserts, small towns and cities, state and federal lands, National Forests to coastal streams, and the waterways in between. The Western Native Trout Initiative puts 92% of the registration fees back on the ground to support western native trout restoration projects, educational programming and volunteer events.



Figure 5 – Registrants as of December 2021 for the Western Native Trout Challenge by state (left). An Arctic Grayling caught by Daniel Ritz (right). Photo Credit: Daniel Ritz

Fish Habitat Improvement Project On-The-Ground

The Pacific Marine and Estuarine Partnership Improves Habitat for Spawning Forage Fish & Salmonids

In early 2023, the Aiston Reserve Nearshore Restoration Project was completed in Puget Sound, Washington with funding from Pacific Marine and Estuarine Partnership. This project, conducted by the Lummi Island Heritage Trust, improves habitats for forage fish spawning and migrating juvenile salmonids by restoring nearshore sediment processes and habitat connectivity and creating a pocket beach along 500 linear feet of shoreline. The project removed fill and shoreline armor and nourished the beach with sediment sized appropriately for forage fish spawning. The project enhanced a fully connected watershed from forested uplands to the nearshore and expanded eelgrass and kelp beds. The project was funded in part by the Pacific Marine and Estuarine Fish Habitat Partnership.



Figure 6 - By removing the armor rock and re-grading the shoreline during its mine reclamation project, the Lummi Island Heritage Trust was able to connect the upland corridor to nearshore habitat and help the shallow water habitat recover its natural processes. Photo Credit: Lummi Island Heritage Trust

Communications Committee Report

Committee members: Steve Guertin, John LeCoq, Chris Cantrell, Pat Rivers, Gene Gilliland

The National Fish Habitat Board approved the Communications Strategy for NFHP in November of 2022. During the November Board meeting, there was interest by the Board in having guidance developed on the National Fish Habitat Partnership Brand and Logo. Over the past month, the committee developed the below brand guidance and logo guide to be provided as a Committee update at the March 1st meeting of the Board.

Guidance on the Use of the National Fish Habitat Partnership Brand

Purpose:

The purpose of this Guidance is to establish guidance for the authorized use of the term National Fish Habitat Partnership and its logo. To protect the value and integrity of the National Fish Habitat Partnership brand, all programs, partnerships, individual projects, or other entities wishing to use the National Fish Habitat Partnership label or logo must follow the guidelines below.

Background:

The National Fish Habitat Partnership (NFHP) is an unprecedented national effort to build and support strategic partnerships for fish habitat conservation. The Action Plan establishes a process that brings together partners, challenges them to identify and collaborate to advance *strategic* conservation priorities, and to measure and report progress. It is this commitment to strategic work, conducted by partners working together, and a commitment to progress measurement that distinguishes the Action Plan and its Partnerships from other fish habitat conservation efforts.

*The National Fish Habitat Board*² (Board) has the responsibility for promoting, overseeing, and coordinating the implementation of the Action Plan, in cooperation with all of the NFHP partners. Additional information is available at www.fishhabitat.org.

Partnerships:

Partnerships that have been formally recognized by the National Fish Habitat Board should use the NFHP brand in their outreach material and other communications. These Partnerships are encouraged to identify themselves as “Fish Habitat Partnerships” or “NFHP Fish Habitat Partnerships”.

Partnerships that have submitted a Letter of Intent to the National Fish Habitat Board

may use the NFHP brand in their outreach material and other communications. These Partnerships are encouraged to identify themselves as “Candidate Fish Habitat Partnerships” or “NFHP Candidate Fish Habitat Partnerships”.

Individual projects:

The term “NFHP project” may be applied to:

1. projects funded by NFHP sources such as the Board or Federal agency funds designated for NFHP;
2. projects proposed by FHPs but not funded by NFHP sources; and
3. projects that are not funded by NFHP sources or proposed by FHPs, but that address one or more of the strategic priorities of a Board-recognized FHP (as established in the FHP’s strategic plan) or of the Board itself (as established by the [annual national conservation priorities of the Board](#) and successive updates), and include an evaluation plan that complies with criteria established for Board-funded projects.

Projects that fall under categories 1 and 2 above should use the NFHP brand in their outreach and communication materials. Projects that fall under category 3 above should apply to the appropriate FHP for endorsement, and once a letter of endorsement is received the project proponents may use the NFHP brand. The Board will establish guidelines for FHPs in issuing such letters of endorsement.

Grant programs:

Grant programs may use the NFHP brand in their outreach and communications materials under the conditions below:

Grant programs that are created specifically to support the Partnership should include protection, restoration, and enhancement of all types of fish habitat as activities eligible for funding. They should be limited to funding projects that address priorities identified by the Board (as established by the [annual national conservation priorities of the Board](#), and successive updates) and Board- recognized Fish Habitat Partnerships (as established in the FHP’s strategic plan). They should be required to include project assessment, evaluation, and reporting requirements consistent with the progress measurement criteria established by the Board and/or appropriate Fish Habitat Partnerships. The Board must review and approve eligibility of these grant programs before they are implemented to ensure the programs are aligned with the Action Plan mission and goals. The grant programs’ communications efforts should be coordinated with the Board’s communications staff. The grant programs should also coordinate evaluation and reporting requirements and processes with the Board and Fish Habitat Partnerships where appropriate. Grant programs meeting these criteria should call themselves a “NFHP Grant program”, and all projects funded by these grant programs should be considered NFHP Projects.

Grant programs that are created for other purposes but that wish to state they are supporting the Action Plan should apply to the Board for endorsement. In order to be eligible for Board endorsement, grant programs should include the goals and objectives of the Action Plan in the grant program description and describe how the projects funded by the program will help to achieve the goals of the Action Plan. They should identify as a priority for funding projects that address priorities identified by the Board (as established by the [annual national conservation priorities of the Board](#) and successive updates) and Board-recognized Fish Habitat Partnerships (as established in the FHP's strategic plan), or include NFHP strategic priorities in the ranking criteria in some other way. Grant programs should include performance reporting that is consistent with or equivalent to the progress measurement criteria established by the Board and/or appropriate Fish Habitat Partnerships.

Grant programs meeting these criteria should submit a letter to the Board requesting endorsement, and once a letter of endorsement is received the grant programs may call themselves a “Grant Program in Support of NFHP”. The Board will establish an official process for issuing such letters of endorsement.

A project funded by these grant programs may be considered a “NFHP project” if the project address one or more of the strategic priorities of a Board-recognized FHP or of the Board itself, and includes an evaluation plan comparable to that which is required for Board-funded projects. Project proponents should apply to the appropriate FHP for endorsement, and once a letter of endorsement is received the project proponents may use the NFHP brand. The Board will establish guidelines for FHPs in issuing such letters of endorsement.

Other Entities:

Other entities wishing to use the NFHP brand should seek permission.



LOGO GUIDE & STYLE SHEET

FONT

Your logo uses Myriad Pro Regular and Bold typefaces. Because fonts require licenses in order to use them, the fonts will be flattened in all of your logo files (which means the letters are transformed into graphics and can no longer be edited as type). We list the typefaces here for your knowledge so that, if you choose, a designer working on a project for you can buy and use this font to match the look of your logo.

FILE FORMATS

Your zipped file contains logos in different formats: AI, EPS, JPEG and GIF.

-Adobe Illustrator (AI)-

Adobe Illustrator is the original program in which your logo was designed. It is a vector file, which means it can be resized without any loss of quality.

-EPS-

As is the case with the original Illustrator file, EPS files are considered fully editable master files of your logo. Designers with the necessary software (Adobe Illustrator) can use the EPS files to make edits to your logo, or separate elements of your logo for related graphic design purposes. EPS files are also vector files, and can be resized without loss of quality. Use EPS files when sending the logo to a professional designer or printer. Without the proper software programs, you will not be able to open EPS files on your computer.

EPS files are available in the following color formats: CMYK, PMS 2-color, grayscale, black, 2-color reverse and CMYK reverse.

-JPEG-

Unlike EPS files, JPEG files are raster files, which means they cannot be enlarged or significantly reduced without loss of quality. JPEGs can be inserted into Microsoft Office applications, such as Word or PowerPoint. When creating something that will be printed on a low-grade/home printer, a JPEG can be used. JPEGs are also often used online, for websites or email newsletters.

Since it's not a good idea to resize a JPEG, three sizes are provided, which should meet most of your needs. If other sizes are needed in the future, a professional designer can use the AI or EPS file to create any size needed.

JPEG files are available in the following color formats: RGB and grayscale.

-GIF-

GIF files are for onscreen viewing, such as websites and PowerPoint presentations. Unlike JPEGs, they are able to have transparent backgrounds. GIFs do not resize well. If you need a GIF file in another size, a professional designer should use the AI or EPS file to create the size needed.

GIF file is available in the following color format: RGB.

COLOR FORMATS

-PMS (2C)-

PMS stands for Pantone Management System (www.pantone.com), and is a system used by designers and printers to guarantee color control. The dark blue used in your logo is called PMS 280 and the light blue is PMS 300 (in the reverse version, the only blue is PMS 297). To keep printing costs down, designers sometimes create collateral using only one or two colors; use these files in those instances.

-CMYK (4C)-

This version appears the same as the 2-color PMS version, but it is different. CMYK stands for cyan, magenta, yellow and black, which are the colors used at different percentages to build any possible color. The CMYK values for your logo are: dark blue: 100, 78, 5, 18; light blue: 100, 42, 0, 0; blue used in reverse version: 51, 0, 1, 0. Because C, M, Y and K are separate colors, the CMYK version is considered a 4-color logo.

-Grayscale-

The grayscale version uses only shades of black, or the "K" in CMYK, making it a 1-color version. If you are printing in black and white, use this version.

-Black (K)-

The black version of your logo is also just 1-color, but it uses only the 100% value of black. This version would be necessary if you were imprinting your logo on an item such as a trophy, because imprinting does not allow for different shades of color.

-Reverse (R)-

The reverse version of your logo uses white and a lighter shade of blue. It would be used on a dark background.

-RGB-

The RGB version may *look* the same as the 4-color or 2-color version, but is available only in JPEG and GIF format, and should be reserved for on-screen applications, such as websites or PowerPoint, or for low-grade/home printers. RGB stands for Red, Green and Blue. The RGB values for your logo are: dark blue: 0, 39, 118; light blue: 0, 101, 189; blue used in reverse version: 114, 199, 231