



Check Presentation –
November 21, 2021



NATIONAL
FISH HABITAT
PARTNERSHIP

Board Meeting Book

February 16-17, 2022
ZOOM MEETING



National Fish Habitat Partnership Board Meeting Agenda

Wednesday - Thursday, February 16-17, 2022

Zoom Meeting Information:

<https://fishwildlife-org.zoom.us/j/83366529843?pwd=RTFHymtuSmFYRmFFbkIzUCtzUVVMZz09>

Meeting ID: 833 6652 9843

Passcode: 225035

Wednesday, February 16, 2022

1:00 – 4:00 PM ET

Time (PM ET)	Agenda Item	Board Book Tab	Lead
1:00	<p>Attendance & Welcome <i>Desired outcomes:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board staff to take attendance. • Board action to approve the February 16 agenda. • Board action to approve the October 2021 meeting summary. • Welcome new Board member, Patrick Rivers, representing the Midwest Association for Fish and Wildlife Agencies 	Tab 1	Ed Schriever (<i>Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, Board Chairman</i>) & Board Staff
1:15	<p>2022 Meeting Schedule & Annual Planning <i>Desired outcomes:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board awareness of the tentative 2022 Board meeting schedule. • Board action to complete poll indicating preferred 2022 meeting dates. • Board awareness of the upcoming list of Board tasks and how they fit into the 2022 schedule. 	Tab 2	Alex Atkinson (<i>NOAA Fisheries, Board Staff</i>)
1:35	<p>Board Priorities Discussion for FY22, FY23, & Beyond <i>Desired outcomes:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board awareness of responses from the October 2021 Board survey. • Board discussion of where their desires for Board priorities beyond 2022. 		Ed Schriever (<i>Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, Board Chairman</i>), Ryan Roberts (<i>Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, Board Staff</i>), & Board
2:00	<p>FHP Project Proposal and Review Process for FY23 <i>Desired outcomes:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board awareness of changes to the FY23 FHP Fish Habitat Conservation project submission process from the FY22 process. 	Tab 3	Stan Allen (<i>Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission, Board member</i>)

- **Request Board volunteers** for the FY23 FHP Project Proposal review team (~9-10 Board members total).
- **Board vote** on whether or not to adopt the FY23 FHP Project Proposal materials and process presented by the Partnerships Committee.

2:20

USFWS Update

Desired outcomes:

- **Board awareness** Tribal, FWS internal discussions, and Financial Assistance, Support, and Oversight (FASO) meeting with FHPs on 2/18.

Steve Guertin (*US Fish and Wildlife Service, Board Member*)

2:30

Tribal Board Member Vote

Desired outcomes:

- **Board awareness** of the status of the Tribal NFHP Board seats.
- **Board vote** on whether or not to appoint a single Tribal Board member in advance of receiving the Secretary of Interior’s nominee list.
 - **Board consideration** of previous Tribal nominees.

Ed Schriever (*Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, Board Chairman*)

2:45

Science and Data Committee Update on FY24 National Conservation Priorities, Schedule, & Opportunities to Engage

Desired outcomes:

- **Board approval** of the proposed process to develop FY2024 National Conservation Priorities.
- **Board understanding** of the status of the NFHP Project Tracking Database System
 - **Request** Board members who would like to participate on SDC subcommittee focused on guiding improvements to Project Tracking Database.
 - **Request** Board feedback on specific metrics to include in reporting tools (i.e., what queries of NFHP projects would be helpful for the community).
- **Board understanding** of the need to start scoping the 2025 National Fish Habitat Assessment.

Tab 4

Gary Whelan (*MI Department of Natural Resources, Board Staff, Co-chair of Science and Data Committee*) & Daniel Wieferich (*USGS, Board Staff, Co-chair of the Science and Data Committee*)

3:20

Interagency Operational Plan (IOP)

Desired outcomes:

- **Board discussion** of the next steps with the draft IOP.

Mike Bailey (*USFWS, Board Staff*)

4:00

Adjourn



National Fish Habitat Partnership Board Meeting Agenda

Wednesday - Thursday, February 16-17, 2022

Zoom Meeting Information:

<https://fishwildlife-org.zoom.us/j/83366529843?pwd=RTFHymtuSmFYRmFFbkIzUCtzUVVMZz09>

Meeting ID: 833 6652 9843

Passcode: 225035

Thursday, February 17, 2022

1:00 - 4:00 PM ET

Time (PM ET)	Agenda Item	Board Book Tab	Lead
1:00	<p>Attendance & Welcome <i>Desired outcomes:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board staff to take attendance. • Board action to approve the February 17 agenda. 		Ed Schriever (<i>Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, Board Chairman</i>) & Board Staff
1:15	<p>Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) & America The Beautiful Roundtable <i>Desired outcomes:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board awareness of status of America the Beautiful initiative. • Board awareness of agency funding (relevant to fish habitat work) described in the IIJA, agency priorities for those funds, and process/timeline of spending funds. • Board discussion of ripe opportunities for NFHP and Fish Habitat Partnerships to access infrastructure funding and capitalize on the opportunities afforded by America the Beautiful. 		TRCP - Christy Plumer USGS - Anne Kinsinger NOAA - Carrie Robinson (<i>Director of Office of Habitat Conservation</i>) USFWS - Steve Guertin USFS - Barnie Gyant AFWA - Kurt Thiede (<i>AFWA Director of Government Affairs</i>)
2:15	<p>Waters to Watch 2022 <i>Desired outcomes:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board vote to approve the 2022 Waters to Watch guidance and timeline. 	Tab 6	Ryan Roberts (<i>Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, Board Staff</i>)
2:30	<p>FHP Update about FY23 Project Submissions <i>Desired outcomes:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board awareness of changes in number of projects submitted to NFHP Requests for Proposals and feedback FHPs are hearing from project managers. 		FHP Representative

2:50	Bass Pro Funding Opportunity <i>Desired outcomes:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Board awareness of the Bass Pro funding application and review process planned for 2022.• Request for volunteers to review FHP project proposals after submission deadline of March 30, 2022.	Tab 7	Ryan Roberts (<i>Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, Board Staff</i>)
3:10	NOAA NFHP Funding Opportunity <i>Desired outcomes:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Board awareness of NOAA’s informal funding opportunity for coastal Fish Habitat Partnerships and previously funded projects.		Sam Rauch (<i>NOAA Fisheries, Board Member</i>)
3:25	2022 NFHP Letter to Congress <i>Desired outcomes:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Board awareness of letter that was sent on the Board’s behalf to Congress to fulfill the requirements of the ACE Act.	Tab 5	Ed Schriever (<i>Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, Board Chairman</i>)
4:00	Adjourn		



National Fish Habitat Partnership Board Meeting Summary

Wednesday, October 27, 2021

1:00 – 4:00 PM ET

Zoom Meeting Information:

<https://fishwildlife-org.zoom.us/j/86021946504?pwd=Tk1RejZyVWFmODYzNETkSDhiOFVhQT09>

Meeting ID: 860 2194 6504

Passcode: 827581

Board Members Present (24):

1	Allen	Stan	X
2	Austen	Doug	X
3	Bowden	Allison	X
4	Boyd	Douglass	X
5	Cantrell	Chris	X
6	Eischeid	Ted	X
7	Gilliland	Gene	X
8	Guertin	Steve	X
9	Gyant/Conley	Barnie/Kimberly	X
10	Kinsinger/Beard	Anne/Doug	X
11	Kruse	Carter	X
12	LeCoq	John	X
13	Leonard	Mike	X
14	Moore	Chris	X
15	Moore	Bryan	X
16	Nygren	Doug	X
17	Perry	Steve	X
18	Plumer	Christy	X
19	Rauch	Sam	X
20	Schaeffer	Timothy D.	X
21	Schriever	Ed	X
22	Slaughter	Joe	X
23	Trushenski	Jesse	X
24	Wilson	Bobby	X

8	Steve	Krentz	X
9	Gordon	Smith	X
10	Branden	Bornemann	X
11	Jessica	Speed	X
12	Joe	Nohner	
13	Kevin	Haupt	X
14	Alicia	Marrs	
15	Joan	Drinkwin	
16	Jeff	Boxrucker	X
17	Debbie	Hart	
18	Jessica	Graham	
19	Tim	Troll	
20	Therese	Thompson	
21	John	Netto	X
22	Karin	Eldridge	X
23	Jessica	Hogrefe	X
24	Walter	Boltin	
25	Bill	Rice	
26	Michael	Daigneault	
27	Lisa	Heki	

Board Staff Present (4):

- Alex Atkinson
- Ryan Roberts
- Gary Whelan
- Daniel Wieferich

FHP & FWS Coordinators (12):

1	Lisa	Havel	X
2	Alicia	Marrs	X
3	Jennifer	Graves	X
4	Jeff	Hastings	
5	Lori	Maloney	
6	Heidi	Keuler	
7	Rick	Westerhof	

Others (12):

- Eric MacMillan (USFWS)
- Kim Conley (USFS)
- Doug Beard (USGS)
- Callie McMunigal
- Chris Carlson
- Christopher Estes
- Yvette Paroz
- Will Duncan
- Louise Mauldin
- Mark Humpert
- Susan Wells
- Chris Crookshanks

Board Business/Items Approved by the Board:

- October 27 Board meeting agenda: motion by: Chris Moore, seconded by: Allison Bowden.
- August 30 Board meeting summary: motion by: Allison Bowden, seconded by: Jesse Trushenski.
- FY2023 National Conservation Priorities as follows:
 - 1) Protect intact healthy waters
 - 2) Restore hydrologic conditions for fish
 - 3) Reconnect fragmented fish habitats
 - 4) Restore water quality
 - 5) Coordination and operational support for FHPs to make on-the-ground progress within program appropriations

Time (PM ET)	Agenda Item	Board Book Tab	Lead(s)
1:00	<p>Welcome</p> <p><i>Desired outcomes:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board staff to take attendance. • Board action to approve the October 27 agenda. • Board action to approve the August 30 meeting summary. 	Tab 1	<p>Ed Schriever (<i>Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, Board Chairman</i>)</p>
1:15	<p>Board Meeting Schedule & Upcoming Board Tasks</p> <p><i>Desired outcomes:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board discussion of the desired meeting frequency for 2022. • Board awareness of the upcoming list of Board tasks and how they fit into the 2022-2023 schedule. 	Tab 2	<p>Alex Atkinson (<i>NOAA Fisheries, Board Staff</i>)</p>

Chairman Schriever welcomed Board members by announcing the news that the Board received a letter from the Secretary of Interior accepting the FY22 fish habitat conservation project list that the Board put forward in July. This is very positive news for the Board and an indication of the Secretary’s support in moving forward implementing the Partnership under the new legislation. A copy of the Secretary’s letter was distributed to all Board members and Fish Habitat Partnerships by Board staff. Chairman Schriever thanked the Board members, staff, and specifically, Board member Steve Guertin for his assistance advancing this effort within the Department of Interior.

Alex Atkinson presented a proposed 2022 Board meeting schedule recommended by the staff. The 4 meetings (~February/March, June, August/September, & November) throughout the year are timed for the Board to meet the ACE Act requirements, provide FHPs direction for request for their proposals, and accomplish typical Board business. The Board has not yet had an opportunity to meet in person due to the pandemic and the staff is hoping that the next meeting of the Board can occur in person. Alex reminded the current Board that the previous NFHP Board met twice per year – March meeting in Washington DC and an October meeting out at a rotating field site with an opportunity to see FHP projects. This Board has the flexibility to determine how many and which meetings they would like to have in person, especially once travel restrictions have been lifted, however, we anticipate 2022 to be another somewhat atypical year. Alex reminded the Board of the chart of Board tasks that are upcoming and that some of those timelines may need to be adjusted. She also introduced that the Board staff would like to form a small team of Board staff, Board members, and FHP representatives to assist with Board meeting planning. Finally,

the Chairman also reminded the Board that we will likely call a short notice virtual meeting of the Board once we hear back from the Department of Interior on the Tribal Board member nominees so we can appoint them as soon as possible.

1:30 Presentation of Board Survey Results

Desired outcomes:

- **Board staff** shares highlights of the Board survey results to inform meeting discussions.

Tab 3 Ryan Roberts (*Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, Board Staff*)

Ryan Roberts presented a high level overview of the results of the Board member survey that was distributed in advance of the meeting. 13 of the 24 Board members responded to the survey and the survey intended to inform future Board meeting planning as well as the discussion on National Conservation Priorities. Questions 8-10 of the survey focus on the National Conservation Priorities and most respondents agree that the Board needs a means to measure conservation goals through other guiding documents. Most survey respondents also disagreed with making substantial changes to the National Conservation Priorities for FY23.

There was some Board discussion following Ryan’s presentation about the National Conservation Priorities. Board members raised the importance in being able to measure success including building and maintaining relationships, while keeping priorities more qualitative yet specific. Board members also highlighted to need to communicate successes beyond just fish habitats.

1:45 National Conservation Priorities Background and Setup

Desired outcomes:

- **Board awareness** of background from the Science and Data Committee on the process and options developed for the Board’s consideration.

Tab 4 Gary Whelan (*MI Department of Natural Resources, Board Staff, Co-chair of Science and Data Committee*)

Gary Whelan presented background on the National Conservation Priorities discussions of the Science and Data Committee to help seed the Board discussion. The Committee developed a buffet of options – high level to landscape to system – for the Board to consider. The Committee used 3 system teams, solicited options, and ranked options within system, over the course of multiple meetings. Gary explained a few added considerations for the Board including that the priorities must be captured by the NFHP Project Tracking Database, each individual FHP’s capacity, and the common thread and connection among other components of NFHP.

Gary reviewed four options for the Board to consider for FY2023 including:

- Option 1 – use existing set of NCPs
- Option 2 – use existing set of NCPs with an area of emphasis
- Option 3 – use existing set of NCPs with one addition and system-specific area of emphasis
- Option 4 – use a system specific set of NCPs

The Board discussed the merits of options, qualitative vs. quantitative priorities, a nested approach to priorities, and challenges associated with monitoring and demonstrating success on a national scale.

2:00 FHP Input on National Conservation Priorities

Desired outcomes:

Lori Maloney

- **FHPs** have an opportunity to share input with the Board as they consider options for the FY23 National Conservation Priorities.

Lori Maloney, coordinator for Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture, spoke on behalf of the Fish Habitat Partnership Coordinators to offer the FHP perspective on the National Conservation Priorities discussion. She emphasized that the relationships between the FHPs, Board, and staff are all very important. The FHPs offered the Board two recommendations when discussing the National Conservation Priorities:

- **Recommendation 1:** The Board maintain conservation priorities at high level – can be pursued equally by all FHPs, FHPs do not recommend selecting an area of emphasis
- **Recommendation 2:** For future years, the SDC lay out a process for full engagement with the FHPs and SDCs to develop metrics and allow more bottom-up engagement.

Lori acknowledged leadership can come from the Board to guide FHPs but also emphasized the massive expertise of FHP Steering Committees. She emphasized that those experts should be utilized as a resource and their work amplified by NFHP. There was some discussion about the NFHP Project Tracking Database and how that will play a role in measuring progress, success, and outcomes. In order to bring Board members up to speed, the Board staff will circulate a recorded video from Kate Sherman talking about the features of the NFHP Project Tracking Database.

2:30 National Conservation Priorities Discussion & Vote

Tab 4

Ed Schriever (*Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, Board Chairman*)

Desired outcomes:

- **Board discussion** of options presented by the SDC for the FY23 National Conservation Priorities.
- **Board action** to vote on the FY23 National Conservation Priorities.

The Chairman reminded the Board that the Board may adopt FY2023 National Conservation Priorities via majority vote (the Board will develop Board procedures at a later meeting) and opened the floor for the Board to discuss the previous presentations. Board members expressed their general preference to maintain the current National Conservation Priorities, framing them in the context of other guiding NFHP documents, but revisit the Priorities for a more full dissection for FY2024. Board member, Stan Allen, motioned that the Board approve the SDC option 1 for the FY2023 National Conservation Priorities and suggest the Board form a work group of Board members, FHP coordinators, Board staff and SDC members to further the discussion to develop appropriate measurement criteria for future priorities.

3:30 Upcoming Board Tasks – NFHP Action Plan Board Work Plan, & the Future of National Conservation Priorities

Alex Atkinson (*NOAA Fisheries, Board Staff*)

Desired outcomes:

- **Board staff** to remind the Board of upcoming tasks, their timing, and how they are inter-related.

Alex Atkinson, Board staff, started by reminding the Board of the current Committees that have been approved – Science and Data Committee and the Partnerships Committee. The goal of the presentation was to identify Board members to form small teams to begin working on several upcoming Board tasks including the NFHP Action Plan, Congressional report, Board Work Plan, and Board procedures. Several Board members volunteered to join work groups to focus on these upcoming Board tasks.

4:00 Adjourn

**National Fish Habitat Partnership
Board Meeting Agenda**

Thursday, October 28, 2021

1:00 – 3:00 PM ET

Zoom Meeting Information:

<https://fishwildlife-org.zoom.us/j/87044397433?pwd=Y2loNUIlTVNRWjFhOHNjYy9WUfVZz09>

Meeting ID: 870 4439 7433

Passcode: 731525

47 participants

Board Members Present (22):

1	Allen	Stan	X
2	Austen	Doug	X
3	Bowden	Allison	X
4	Boyd	Douglass	X
5	Cantrell	Chris	X
6	Eischeid	Ted	X
7	Gilliland	Gene	X
8	Guertin	Steve	X
9	Gyant/Conley	Barnie/Kimberly	X
10	Kinsinger/Beard	Anne/Doug	X
11	Kruse	Carter	X
12	LeCoq	John	X
13	Leonard	Mike	X
14	Moore	Chris	X
15	Moore	Bryan	
16	Nygren	Doug	X
17	Perry	Steve	X
18	Plumer	Christy	X
19	Rauch	Sam	X
20	Schaeffer	Timothy D.	X
21	Schriever	Ed	X
22	Slaughter	Joe	X
23	Trushenski	Jesse	
24	Wilson	Bobby	X

Board Staff Present (4):

- Alex Atkinson
- Ryan Roberts
- Gary Whelan
- Daniel Wieferich

FHP & FWS Coordinators (14):

1	Lisa	Havel	X
2	Alicia	Marrs	X

3	Jennifer	Graves	
4	Jeff	Hastings	
5	Lori	Maloney	
6	Heidi	Keuler	X
7	Rick	Westerhof	
8	Steve	Krentz	X
9	Gordon	Smith	X
10	Branden	Bornemann	X
11	Jessica	Speed	X
12	Joe	Nohner	X
13	Kevin	Haupt	X
14	Alicia	Marrs	
15	Joan	Drinkwin	
16	Jeff	Boxrucker	X
17	Debbie	Hart	X
18	Jessica	Graham	
19	Tim	Troll	
20	Therese	Thompson	
21	John	Netto	
22	Karin	Eldridge	X
23	Jessica	Hogrefe	X
24	Walter	Boltin	
25	Bill	Rice	
26	Michael	Daigneault	X
27	Lisa	Heki	

Others (8):

- Eric MacMillan (USFWS)
- Kim Conley (USFS)
- Doug Beard (USGS)
- Callie McMunigal
- Chris Carlson
- Christopher Estes
- Yvette Paroz
- Susan Wells
- Chris Crookshanks

Board Business/Items Approved by the Board:

- October 28 Board meeting agenda: motion.

Time (PM ET)	Agenda Item	Board Book Tab	Lead(s)
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1:00	<p>Welcome</p> <p><i>Desired outcomes:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board staff to take attendance. • Board action to approve the October 28 agenda. 		<p>Ed Schriever (<i>Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, Board Chairman</i>)</p>
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Chairman Schriever offered a slight modification to the day’s meeting agenda adding some time at the end of the meeting to check in on Board work groups and committees. This modification was approved by motion.

1:15	<p>FHP Session</p> <p><i>Desired outcomes:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FHPs to bring forward current items of interest for the Board’s discussion and consideration. 		<p>Lori Maloney (<i>Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture Coordinator</i>)</p>
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Lori Maloney, coordinator for the Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture, spoke on behalf of the FHP coordinators to the Board. Being relatively new to NFHP, Lori emphasized how much she has learned from other FHP coordinators, the USFWS, and Board staff along the way. Lori expressed a thank you to the Board getting the FY22 projects cleared by the Department of Interior and was encouraged by yesterday’s discussion on National Conservation Priorities. Lori indicated that the FHPs are preparing their Request for Proposals (RFPs) for FY23 and are including 1:1 match as a requirement for projects along with other requirements. Lori shared the timeline with the Board from preparation of RFPs (several months) to submission of projects (2.5 months) to project review. The FHPs have made the following assumptions for the FY23 RFP process:

- 1:1 match follows federal cost principles defining match;
- 1:1 match at the level of all FHP projects; and
- Project period is similar to previous project periods and FHPs will prioritize those projects that can be completed within 2 years of funding.

The FHPs would like to recommend that the Board closely examine this annual process and a foster a shared understanding of the schedule among the Board and FHPs, establish an evaluation process to determine allocation to the individual FHPs, and identify how individual project grant agreements will be administered, and what entity is responsible for each part of the process. The FHPs would also like to make a request of the Board that they support the FHPs by identifying and providing operational match for the FHPs for FY23.

Following Lori’s presentation Board members clarified a few questions – operational match and non-federal dollars – and thanked Lori for her clear and concise presentation on behalf of the FHPs. The Chairman acknowledged that the staff is aiming to adjust the Board meeting schedule to accommodate an earlier completion of National Conservation Priorities to better meet the FHP timeline presented.

1:45	<p>USFWS Update</p> <p><i>Desired outcomes:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board awareness of any new developments at the Department of Interior. 		<p>Steve Guertin (<i>US Fish and Wildlife Service, Board Member</i>)</p>
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Steve Guertin wished a congratulations to the Board on receiving the letter from the Department of Interior approving the FY22 list of fish habitat conservation projects. He informed the Board that Martha Williams was nominated as the next Director at the USFWS. USFWS staff will be available to help with year 2 of the NFHP transition to implement the ACE Act. The USFWS continues to push for the advancement of the list of NFHP Board Tribal nominees and has passed along the growing frustration that the Board is not complete yet and needs to move forward.

2:00 Update on the Interagency Operational Plan

Mike Bailey (*US Fish and Wildlife Service, Board Staff*)

Desired outcomes:

- **Board staff** to provide an update on the Interagency Operational Plan progress and timeline.

Mike Bailey, Board staff provided a short update on the status of the Interagency Operational Plan development. He shared that the Federal partners are treating this document as a living document which will help accommodate remaining details that need be worked out. There are still many operational details that have yet to be determined. The draft IOP has been sent to Federal agencies for review and comment and will be shared more broadly after the Federal partners get a final review. Mike also indicated that he has had a conversation with Christopher Estes about the Water Subcabinet in the context of the IOP. This version of the IOP is likely to be less specific than some are anticipating. He described that there are potentially many opportunities for NFHP with pending legislation and administration initiatives (e.g. America the Beautiful, Justice 40, and 30x30).

There was some Board member discussion about the differences between an MOU and an IOP and opportunities for the IOP to define the use of technical and scientific funds.

2:15 Appointment Process for Tribal Board Members

Alex Atkinson (*NOAA Fisheries, Board Staff*)

Desired outcomes:

- **Board staff** to outline the process planned for appointing the Tribal Board members once the Board receives the list from the Department of Interior.

Alex Atkinson reminded the Board about the two remaining Board seats that have yet to be filled by Tribal representatives and how the initial and remaining Board members were appointed following the passage of the ACE Act. The Secretary of Interior will be providing a list of not fewer than 3 Tribal Board member nominees that have been highly vetted. The Board will need to refresh on the nominees' qualifications and background and the Board may select a Tribal nominee beyond the list from the Secretary. The Board had some discussion about the need for Alaska and non-Alaska Tribal representation on the Board, although there is a huge diversity within those groups.

2:30 Capitol Hill Happenings

Christy Plumer (*Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership, Board Member*)

Desired outcomes:

- **Board awareness** of the status of relevant legislation that could impact NFHP.

Christy Plumer reported the status of the NFHP \$7.662M budget proposal to the Board. The current status is that we are on a continuing resolution through December 3, 2021 and there is a chance of a year-long continuing

resolution beyond December 3 which would lock FY22 funding at the FY21 level (around \$6M). The NFHP Policy team is also trying to advance the progress of the Tribal Board member nominee package. Christy also shared that there have been good conversations with NFWF about partnering on NFHP. AFWA will be heading a letter to the administration requesting FY23 funding at the \$7.2M with \$400 for the agencies to provide technical and scientific assistance. The Policy team continues to track the America The Beautiful initiative as NFHP has been included in this effort. Christy also shared the status of the Build Back Better package slated for a vote on October 28 that contains a lot of new funding and authorizations that would fit well within NFHP's mission. Christy will provide a cheat sheet of the contents of Build Back Better for Board members.

2:45 Bass Pro U.S. Open Amateur Tournament Update

Desired outcomes:

- **Board awareness** of the eligibility requirements for Fish Habitat Partnerships to receive Bass Pro funds.
- **Board awareness** of timing of funding availability.

Tab 5

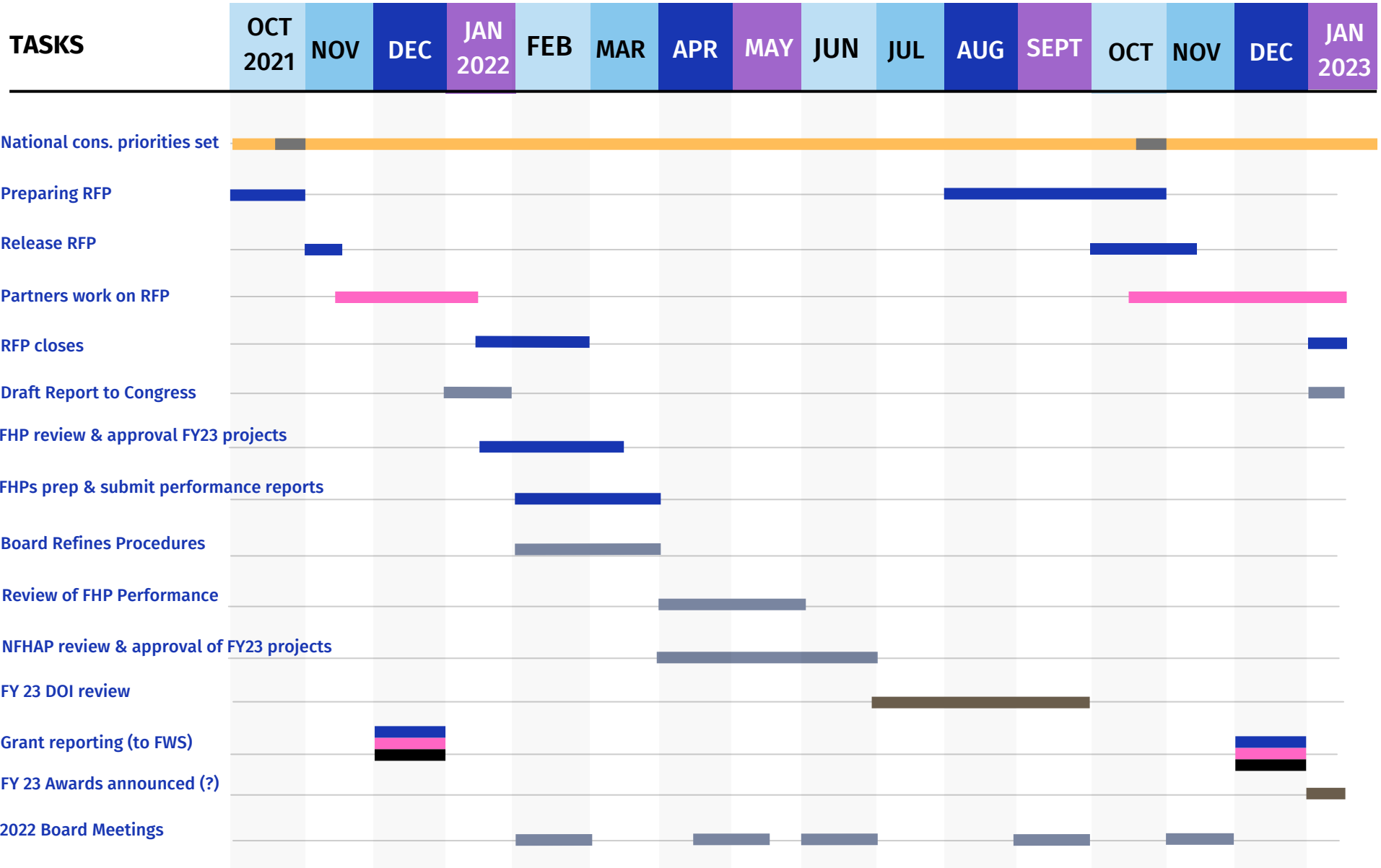
Ryan Roberts (*Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, Board Staff*)

Ryan Roberts shared that the Board will be ordering shirts and he will need to get Board member sizes to place the order. Included in the Board Book (Tab 5) is the agreement between NFHP and Bass Pro for the project funding. 7 of 8 fishing tournament events have been completed and the championship events will be held on Sunday, November 21, 2021 and will be televised on NBCSN at 4 PM. NFHP will have a presence at the championship event. The plan is for Beyond the Pond to be the recipient of the funds and the highest priority will be given to projects in reservoirs, lakes and their tributaries that result in enhanced angling opportunities. Project pre-proposals up to \$75k will be accepted and a subset of NFHP Board members will review and score the project proposals. There was some discussion among the Board about the timeline in which these funds need to be spent and whether or not the funds can be used for indirect costs – Bass Pro did not outline a spending deadline in the agreement and indicated they want the funds to be spent on on-the-ground projects. The Board ran out of time to vote during the meeting on the Bass Pro grant funding criteria and the vote was pushed to a vote by email.

3:00 Adjourn



NFHP Board Tasks and Schedules



Tentative 2022 NFHP Board Meeting Dates

- April 26 or May 3 (in person in the Washington DC area)
- June 28
- September 13 (in person, location TBD)
- November 29



**Work Plan and Accomplishments Report Guidance and Template
FY23 NFHP Project Funding Cycle**

Fish Habitat Partnership:

Contact Person Name:

Phone Number:

Email Address:

General Instructions

1. Complete Section 1 if requesting FHP operational support.
2. Complete Section 2 if requesting NFHP funding for projects.
3. Email one electronic copy of the completed report by 11:59 pm local time, **March 31, 2022** to Alex Atkinson at Alex.Atkinson@NOAA.gov and Ryan Roberts at RRoberts@fishwildlife.org.
4. Incomplete reports will not be considered for funding. Information received after the submission deadline will not be considered.

General Guidance for Completing Section 1. Justification for Stable Operating Support

The intent of Section 1 is to ensure that FHPs receiving operating support are thriving, active organizations making concerted efforts to achieve fish habitat conservation goals and objectives established by both the FHPs and National Fish Habitat Partnership.

Narrative responses should provide an overview of all projects and activities supported by NFHP/FWS funds and all other sources or in-kind contributions for anticipated projects and activities over the previous three federal fiscal years (FY2019, FY2020, and FY2021 or October 1, 2018 through September 30, 2021) and anticipated projects and activities over the next three federal fiscal years (FY2023, FY2024, and FY2025 or October 1, 2022 through September 30, 2025).

Project summaries should not be an itemized list of individual projects. Project summaries should instead focus on the associated outputs and outcomes of the habitat conservation projects implemented by the FHP (e.g., *completed ten fish passage projects resulting in X number of miles reopened, link to strategic plan, objective addressed, outcomes, socioeconomic impacts, etc.*)

Activity summaries should focus on salient operational and programmatic activities (e.g. *update strategic plan, improved capacity of FHP, monitoring and assessments, outreach events, socioeconomic impacts, etc.*). Day-to-day FHP activities (e.g. the number of meetings or teleconferences an FHP representative participated in) are not pertinent to this performance report and should not be included in this summary.

Please make efforts to keep your justification in Section 1 concise. Do not exceed six pages.

Section 1. Justification for Stable Operational Support (maximum 6 pages)

Enter your responses in the space provided below, adding additional pages up to a maximum of 6 pages.

Section 2: Work Plan (1-Year Planning Horizon)

Complete attached excel spreadsheet adding rows for additional projects as needed. This table should include all proposed projects for which you are seeking FY23 NFHP project funds, including FHP operational funds.

You will be asked in the following section, including accompanying spreadsheet, to indicate your FHP has evaluated the extent to which each fish habitat conservation project addresses the following elements as described in the America's Conservation Enhancement (ACE) Act.

“Hard” Project Criteria (spreadsheet and written descriptions)

1. 1:1 non-federal financial match (spreadsheet). Matching funds may be in the form of in-kind support from non-federal sources and must be spent during the project period.
2. The capabilities and experience of project sponsor to successfully implement the project
3. Ecological benefits of the project
4. Measurable goals and objectives
5. Identifies appropriate monitoring and evaluation measures and criteria, including;
 - a. to appropriately **assess the biological, ecological, or other results of the habitat protection**, restoration, or enhancement activities
 - b. Articulates **adaptive management strategies** if the monitoring indicates that project objectives are not being met;
 - c. Identifies **improvements to existing fish populations, recreational fishing opportunities, and the overall economic benefits** for the local community of the fish habitat conservation project.
 - d. Plans to complete a monitoring report, which should be submitted at project completion, describing monitoring results and conclusions.

“Soft” Additional Selection Criteria (spreadsheet only)

6. Fulfills a local or regional priority that is directly linked to the strategic plan of the Partnership (i.e. meets an FHP objective)
7. Address at least one of the five national priorities of the Board
8. Is supported by the findings of the habitat assessment of the Partnership or the Board and aligns with or is compatible with other conservation plans
9. Provides well defined budget linked to deliverables and outcomes
10. Leverages other funds to implement the project
11. Address the causes and process behind the decline of fish populations or fish habitats
12. Includes a local or regional outreach or educational component
13. Will increase fish populations in a manner that leads to recreational fishing opportunities for the public.
14. Increases public access to land or water for fish and wildlife dependent recreation
15. Advances conservation under management or conservation plans, or state or federal law, such as:
 - a. Advances the conservation of Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) as designated by State agencies
 - b. Advances the conservation of fish and fish habitat under Magnuson Act
 - c. Advances the conservation of fish and fish habitat under other relevant Federal law and State wildlife action plans

16. Will be carried out through a cooperative agreement among Federal, State, and local governments, Indian Tribes, and private entities;
17. Is this project being implemented by a Tribe or implemented with tribal funds?

“Hard” Project Select Criteria (written descriptions)

Percentage of proposed projects that meet all of the “Hard” project selection criteria

Choose one and provide narrative responses below.

- Less than 50%
- 50-74%
- 75-99%
- 100%

Narrative responses (max. 1000 characters/project). Please briefly describe each of the following criteria for each project.

Please note: number of each criteria below corresponds with the project criteria description on Page 4 as well as the “NFHP Criteria Number” in the associated spreadsheet.

Project Name (RANK #)

2. Project experience and management
3. Ecological benefits of the project
4. Measurable goals and objectives
5. Description of monitoring plan with references to the following where applicable:
 - a. How the project will **assess the biological, ecological, or other results of the habitat protection, restoration, or enhancement activities;**
 - b. The adaptive management strategies if project objectives are not being met;
 - c. *Please note that these projects will be expected to submit a report of project conclusions and monitoring results.*

“Soft” Project Select Criteria

Percentage of proposed projects that meet the “Soft” project selection criteria (i.e. percent of projects that meet AT LEAST 6 of the 11 soft criteria. See Column AV in spreadsheet to see the number of “soft” criteria met for each project).

- Less than 50%
- 50-74%
- 75-99%
- 100%

Supplemental Guidance for Selected Performance Criterion

Brief project summary for each prioritized project (examples included below)

In Section 2, FHPs must present the suite of ranked projects proposed for FWS NFHP project funding in the current fiscal year and describe how these projects demonstrate strategic use of NFHP project funds and will achieve desired conservation outcomes. Example narrative is provided below for criteria 2-5

Project Name: Barrier removal project (Rank #1)

Criterion 2 - Project proponent experience. Describe the capabilities and experience of the project proponents.

Example: The project partner has an established fish passage program and has considerable capacity to implement the project and achieve project goals. They have successfully completed 4 other projects similar to the barrier removal project proposed.

Criterion 3 – Ecological benefits of the project. Explain how the project restores habitat-forming processes, ecological function and connectivity, and how the project’s ecosystem benefits are expected to be sustained over time.

Example: Barrier removal will make 2.8 miles of upstream habitat accessible for chinook and coho salmon.

Criterion 4 – Measurable goals and objectives:

Example: This project replaces one barrier to fish passage and opens 2.8 miles of upstream habitat to juvenile Coho and Chinook salmon. The crossing has been identified as a partial barrier to juvenile salmon by the State. An estimated 8-10-foot embedded culvert will replace the existing culvert.

Criterion 5 - Description of monitoring plan with references to the following where applicable:

- a. to appropriately **assess the biological, ecological, or other results of the habitat protection, restoration, or enhancement activities**
- b. Articulates **adaptive management strategies** if the monitoring indicates that project objectives are not being met;
- c. Identifies **improvements to existing fish populations, recreational fishing opportunities, and the overall economic benefits** for the local community of the fish habitat conservation project.
- d. **Plans to complete a monitoring report**, which should be submitted at project completion, describing monitoring results and conclusions.

Example: Activities include eelgrass transplant and pre/post-monitoring of beds for one year, with outside funding allowing annual surveys for five years. Following planting, the transplant bed would be

mapped and surveyed for fish, as would several nearby reference beds to monitor success and ensure project goals for total area and density were met. If the total area and density were not met, then we will look to plan an additional transplant date. Monitoring would include bed areal extent, turion density, blade length and width and fish surveys for five years at restoration and donor beds, in accordance with the California Eelgrass Mitigation Policy.

FY23 FHP Project Review Spreadsheet Fields

FUNDING								
NFHP FUNDS REQUESTED	TOTAL PROJECT COST	TOTAL SECURED CONTRIBUTIONS (cash and in-kind) ALL SOURCES by March 31, 2022.	Federal Contributions (cash)	Federal Contributions (in-kind)	Non federal Match (Cash)	Non federal Match (in-kind)	FEDERAL ORGANIZATIONS PROVIDING CONTRIBUTIONS (cash and in kind)	NON-FEDERAL ORGANIZATIONS PROVIDING MATCH (cash and in kind)

FY23 FHP Project Review Spreadsheet Fields

NFHP National Conservation Strategy (indicate each strategy that applies to this project with an X)					Project type: (indicate the type of project with an X; please choose the primary focus of the project and place only one X)					Focal Species and Habitats	
7	7	7	7	7						3	3
1. Protect Intact and Healthy Waters	2. Restore Hydrologic Conditions for Fish	3. Reconnect Fragmented Fish Habitats	4. Restore Water Quality	5. Operational Support for FHP's	1. "On the ground" (engineering assessment, design, construction, implementation, monitoring, evaluation)	2. Scientific Assessment	3. Outreach, communication project	4. Acquisition	5. FHP operational support	Focal Species Benefited (List Species)	Focal Habitat Benefited (List Habitat)

FY23 FHP Project Review Spreadsheet Fields

ACE ACT	"HARD" ACE Act Requirements (Indiciate which of the follow criteria AE-AI that the project meets)				
	1	2	3	4	5
Has this project been evaluated by your FHP to address elements outlined by the America's Conservation Enhancement (ACE) Act? (indicate YES or NO)	1:1 Federal:Non-federal Match (YES or NO)	Pertinent Sponsor Experience & Project Management (Yes/No)	Ecological benefits (Yes/No)	Measurable Goals and Objectives (Yes/No)	Appropriate Monitoring and Evaluation Plan (Yes/No)

FY23 FHP Project Review Spreadsheet Fields

"SOFT" ACE Act Requirements (Indiciate which of the follow criteria AE-AQ that the project meets)											
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	16
Meets At Least 1 FHP Objective (Yes/No)	Meets at Least 1 NFHP Objective (Yes/No)	Supports FHP and NFHP Assessment Findings (Yes / No)	Well Defined Budget (Yes / No)	Leverages Other Funds to Implement the Project (Yes/No)	Address the causes and process behind declines (Yes/No)	Includes an Outreach/Education Component (Yes / No)	Improves Recreational Fishing Opportunities (Yes/No)	Increases Public Access (Yes/No)	Advances Conservation Specified by Existing Management or Conservation Plans (ie state agency plans or Magunson Stevens) (Yes/No)	Project Will Be Carried Out With Partners (federal, state, and local governments, indian tribes, and private entities) (Yes/No)	Is this project being implemented by a Tribe or implemented with tribal funds (indicate YES or NO)

FY23 FHP Project Review Spreadsheet Fields

Supplemental Question	(DO NOT MODIFY!!!!) : Count of Projects that meet "Hard" criteria	(DO NOT MODIFY!!!!): Count of Projects that meet "Soft" criteria
Is this project being implemented by NOAA or with NOAA funds (indicate YES or NO)		

Title: Science and Data Committee Report**Desired Outcomes:**

- **Board approval** of the proposed process to develop FY2024 National Conservation Priorities.
- **Board understanding** of the status of the Project Tracking Database System.
 - **Request** Board members who would like to participate on SDC subcommittee focused on guiding improvements to Project Tracking Database.
 - **Request** Board feedback on specific metrics to include in reporting tools (i.e., what queries of NFHP projects would be helpful for the community).
- **Board understanding** of the need to start scoping the 2025 National Fish Habitat Assessment.

National Conservation Priorities Development Process

The ACE Act requires the Board to develop and use National Conservation Priorities (NCPs) as a basis for the implementation of projects by Fish Habitat Partnerships (FHPs). The Science and Data Committee (SDC) was tasked to develop an improved process that provides for more robust discussion of potential NCPs by all involved in NFHP. Key lessons learned from last years process include: 1) FHPs would appreciate more involvement in the development of the NCPs; 2) The timeframe for development was a late for smooth integration of the NCPs into RFPs by the FHPs; and 3) There were discussions about keeping the overall NCPs at a high level but develop metrics under each high level NCP. Many of the potential metrics were developed and shared by the SDC last year. The proposed process incorporates these lessons and allows for a more timely and vetted process.

Proposed Process: To provide for a broader set of input, the SDC recommends a workgroup that is chaired by a Board member and consists of 3-4 Board members, 3 FHP Coordinators, and 3 SDC members. The SDC would provide technical support for and product reviews to this workgroup. This workgroup would start their work in February and provide the Board with recommended NCPs by August 2022 using the following schedule milestones that includes last year's process for context.

Table 1. NCPs development schedule including process used last year.

Action	Timing last year (2021)	Proposed timing this year (2022)
Convene NCP Workgroup		February
Guidance developed by FHPs for consideration by Workgroup		February/March
Workgroup requests feedback from FHPs on options (regional goals, habitat focus, etc.)		February/March
SDC Committee review of and comment on guidance for Workgroup consideration		March
Initial request from FHPs for priorities (high level) with metrics (detailed) due	July	March
Workgroup reports on progress to Board		April
Draft of Priorities and metrics provided to SDC, FHPs, and Board for review and refinement		May
Board provides feedback on draft priorities and metrics		June
Workgroup compiles metrics and finalizes proposal for SDC review		July
Final spreadsheet or ranked priorities and metrics from Workgroup to Board	September	August
Board approves final NCPs	October 27	September

The SDC recommends the Board consider populating the NCP Workgroup with the following Board members, some of whom are also members of SDC, including, Jesse Trushenski, Joe Slaughter, Cater Kruse, Stan Allen, and Gene Gilliland along with Lori Maloney (FHP Coordinator and SDC member), Joan Drinkwin (FHP Coordinator and SDC member), Jeff Boxrucker (FHP Coordinator), Kate Sherman (SDC member with broad FHP experience), Moe Nelson (SDC member with extensive marine experience) and either Daniel Wieferrich or Gary Whelan (SDC co-chairs).

Project Tracking Database Update

Project Summary

The NFHP Project Tracking System was developed to collect, store, and distribute information about projects funded by the 20 regional fish habitat partnerships through the National Fish Habitat funds, including projects funded from 2006 through 2019. Projects in the database range from on-the-ground restoration, partnership coordination, outreach and education events, and species distribution and habitat assessments. Kate Sherman (Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission, PSMFC) continues to manage and support the Project Tracking System which has been supported over the

years by various grants and in-kind services from PSMFC, NOAA, USGS, and MSCG funding. In recent years the Project Tracking System has received minimal support primarily intended to maintain the system and make annual updates to document new projects. Although the project tracking system has been a great resource for documenting and sharing NFHP successes there are opportunities for improvement in system management and technologies that will help with data collection efficiencies, while also helping meet evolving reporting requirements of the community (e.g., new conservation priorities, ACE Act reporting requirements).

FY21/22 Project Tracking System Priorities and Progress

- Work with FHPs to keep Project Tracking System up to date by entering new project information
 - Update system to include FY2019 and FY2020 projects (Complete)
 - Update system to include FY2021 projects (~90% Completed)
- Secure funding to upgrade project tracking system technology and data structure
 - USGS and PSMFC submitted \$50,000 proposal to USGS Community of Data Integration. Funded proposals will be known in March.
- Improve reporting capabilities of database
 - Update feature service of project information (In Progress)
 - Develop NFHP Project Reporting Dashboard Prototype. Initial development and progress can be tracked at <https://data-beta.usgs.gov/nfhp-dashboard/>. (in-kind USGS, In Progress)

Future and Pending SDC Work

The ACE Act requires the Board report to Congress on the condition of the nation's aquatic habitat by 2025. To accomplish this task, the Board's desired assessment needs to be fully scoped by the end of 2022. The SDC would like to start this process with an overview of existing assessment products at the next Board meeting and start the discussion on what the Board wants in the 2025 assessment.



January 31, 2022

The Honorable Tom Carper
Chairman
Environment and Public Works Committee
United States Senate
410 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito
Ranking Member
Environment and Public Works Committee
United States Senate
456 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Raul Grijalva
Chairman
Natural Resources Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Bruce Westerman
Ranking Member
Natural Resources Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
1329 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Subject: 2021 National Fish Habitat Partnership Report to Congress on Future Fish Habitat Partnership and Modifications

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

As Chairman of the National Fish Habitat Board, I am writing to report on the progress of the [National Fish Habitat Partnership](#) (NFHP) in Fiscal Year 2021 since the enactment of Title II, the National Fish Habitat Conservation Through Partnerships Act, of the America's Conservation Enhancement Act (ACE Act; P.L. 116-188) 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 (*see Attachment 1*) have completed 1,209 projects spanning all 50 states (Figure 1); 70 of which occurred in Fiscal Year 2021 (*see Attachment 2*). While NFHP has directly contributed \$45.2 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 impact of our investments on-the-ground. The Program has 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.

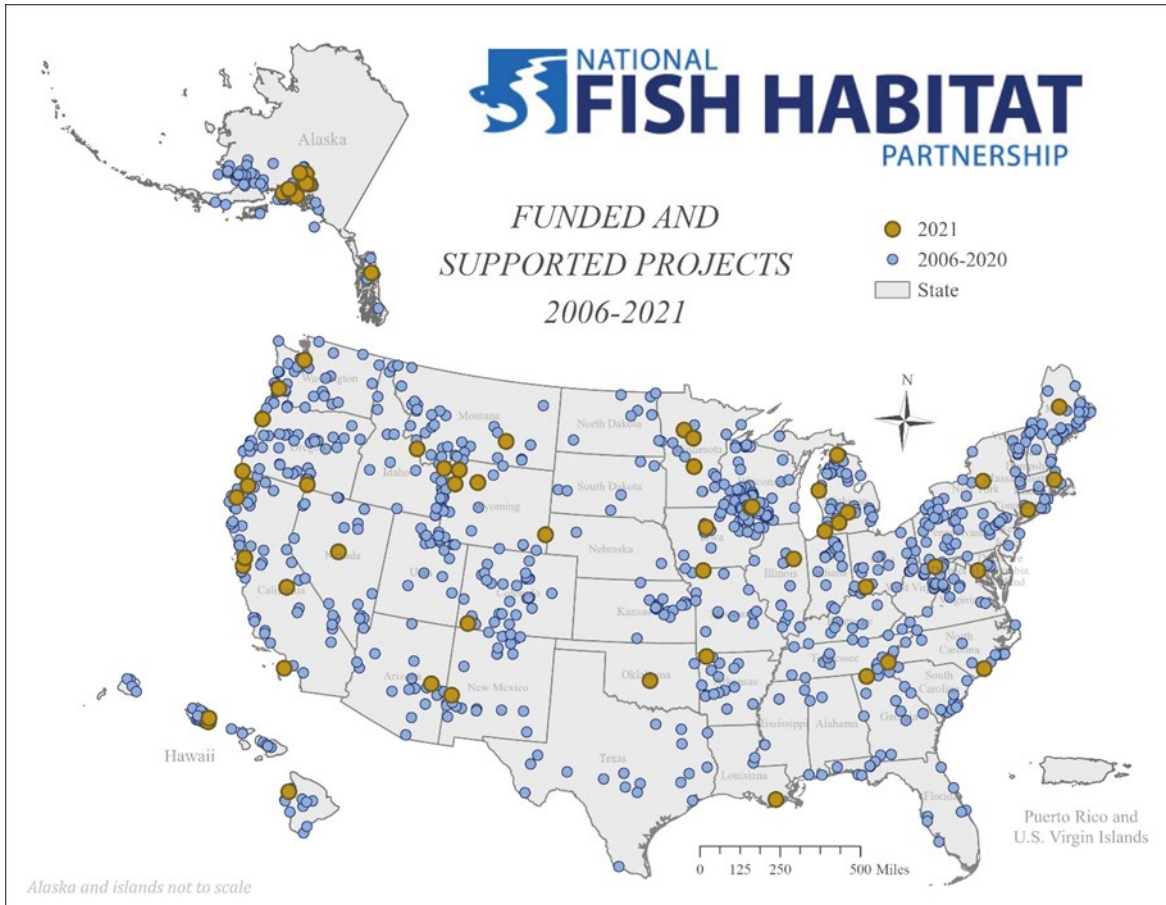


Figure 1 - NFHP funded and supported projects implemented across the United States from 2006 - present.

The Partnership is working to implement the changes to its infrastructure outlined by the ACE Act. By early 2021, the majority of a new 26-member Board was appointed including new members from interest groups not formerly represented on the Board (Figure 2). The two Board member seats that remain vacant are designated for Tribal representatives. The Board awaits the recommendations from the Secretary of Interior to fill these vacant seats. As a result of the pandemic, the Board has been limited to virtual meetings, somewhat hampering our ability to advance all elements of Title II of the ACE Act. However, the Board has been able to implement a timely and responsive program. We look forward to a return to in-person meetings, with Tribal participation, to fully implement the Partnership in 2022. During our regular virtual meetings thus far, the Board discussed changes and key decision points outlined in the ACE Act, shared information, and provided guidance to the existing network of twenty Fish Habitat Partnerships. The newly appointed Board and the Fish Habitat Partnerships developed new project selection



criteria and promptly executed the new project submission process and Board review outlined in the ACE Act. This resulted in the Board's submission of a Fiscal Year 2022 project list for the Secretary of Interior's review by July 1 that was subsequently approved.

The Federal members of the Board, led by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, developed a draft Interagency Operational Plan that describes Federal agency roles and establishes a system for departments and agencies to jointly discuss and pursue collaborative fish habitat conservation work in support of NFHP goals and objectives. The draft Plan is receiving Board review at this stage. The Board also re-established several Committees which support the Board's work on specific tasks like scientific habitat assessments, Fish Habitat Conservation project review, policy analysis, and communications.

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 have been successful transitioning into the model enacted by the ACE Act while continuing to build relationships and achieve on-the-ground results. In Fiscal Year 2022, we look forward to enhancing the operations of the Fish Habitat Partnerships and Board, and beginning needed steps for Congress to approve the Fish Habitat Partnerships. We will also continue planning efforts to complete a new national fish habitat assessment by 2025. 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 Smith". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

National Fish Habitat Board Chairman

Attachments:

1. Existing 20 Fish Habitat Partnerships
2. Selection of 2021 NFHP Project Photos & Descriptions

BOBBY WILSON

Director - Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency
(Board Vice-Chair) (SEAFWA Representative)

JOE SLAUGHTER

Natural Resource Manager, Georgia Power (Corporate
Industry Representative)

JESSE TRUSHENSKI

Chief Science Officer, Riverence (Agriculture
Representative)

CHRIS CANTRELL

Engineering and Construction Services Branch Chief,
Arizona Game and Fish Department (WAFWA
Representative)

STEVE GUERTIN

Deputy Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

DOUG BOYD

Sport Fishing & Boating Partnership Council

MIKE LEONARD

Conservation Director, American Sportfishing
Association (Recreational Sportfishing Industry
Representative)

SAM RAUCH

Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory
Programs, NOAA (National Marine Fisheries Service)

ED SCHRIEVER

Director, Idaho Department of Fish & Game (Board
Chairman) (Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies
Representative)

JOHN LECOQ

CEO, Fishpond USA (Corporate Industry
Representative)

CARTER KRUSE

Director of Conservation, Turner Enterprises (National
Private Landowner Representative)

STAN ALLEN

Sr Program Manager, Pacific States Marine Fisheries
Commission

ANNE KINSINGER

Associate Director, Ecosystems, U.S. Geological
Survey

CHRISTY PLUMER

Chief Conservation Officer, Theodore Roosevelt
Conservation Partnership (TRCP) (Marine Rec. Fishing
Representative)

CHRIS MOORE

Executive Director, Mid-Atlantic Fisheries
Management Council (Commercial Fishing
Representative)

BARNIE GYANT

Associate Deputy Chief, USDA Forest Service

STEVE PERRY

Coordinator, Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture
(Representatives/Landowners - Fish Habitat
Partnerships Representative)

TED EISCHEID

Planner, Matanuska-Susitna Borough, AK (Local
Government Representative)

GENE GILLILAND

Conservation Director, Bass Anglers Sportsman
Society (Freshwater Recreational Angling
organization Representative)

ALISON BOWDEN

Conservation Director, Rivers, Coasts & Oceans, The
Nature Conservancy (Habitat Conservation
Representative)

DOUG AUSTEN

Executive Director, American Fisheries Society,
(Science Based Fisheries Organization
Representative)

TIM SCHAEFFER

Executive Director, PA Fish and Boat Commission
(NEAFWA Representative)

DOUG NYGREN

Fisheries Division Director, Kansas Department of
Wildlife, Parks, and Tourism (MAFWA Representative)

BRYAN MOORE

Chief Intergovernmental Officer, Trout Unlimited
(Habitat Conservation Organization)

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*)

The geographic extent of the Atlantic Coastal Fish Habitat Partnership (ACFHP) stretches from Maine to the Florida Keys, including all or part of 16 States. It covers 476,357 square miles, including land areas inland to the headwaters of coastal rivers, and ocean areas outward to the continental slope. The ACFHP plans to work throughout the region, but will focus on estuarine environments and place less emphasis on coastal headwaters and offshore marine ecosystems.

<http://www.atlanticfishhabitat.org/>

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

The mission of the California Fish Passage Forum is to protect and restore listed anadromous salmonid species, and other aquatic organisms, in California by promoting collaboration among public and private sectors for fish passage improvement projects and programs. Species of concern include (but are not limited to): coho and chinook salmon, steelhead trout, and Pacific lamprey.

<http://www.cafishpassageforum.org>

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

Desert fish have declined across these arid lands as a result of habitat loss and alteration and the widespread introduction and establishment of nonnative aquatic species. Despite numerous federal and state laws, regulations, and policies to protect and recover native desert fishes and their habitats, most of them remain imperiled. Current habitat conditions and threats require specific management actions and focused consideration of desert fishes if these species and their habitats are to be protected and remain viable into the future.

<http://www.desertfhp.org/>

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

The Driftless Area is a 24,000 square-mile area that encompasses portions of southeast Minnesota, northeast Iowa, southwest Wisconsin and northwest Illinois bypassed by the last continental glacier. The region has a high concentration of spring-fed coldwater streams and is recognized for its high diversity of plants, animals, and habitats. The Driftless Area Restoration Effort (DARE) partnership formed to address habitat degradation, loss, and alteration that are the primary factors contributing to the decline of fish populations in this unique region. Poor land and water management practices including intensive row crops, fertilizer use, channelization, water withdrawals, loss of perennial vegetation, and invasive species have caused excessive streambank erosion, sedimentation, and poor water quality that impact waters all the way to the Gulf of Mexico, where such practices have helped contribute to hypoxic waters. DARE is employing a collaborative approach to plan and implement cost effective projects to improve aquatic habitat for fish and other aquatic species by developing a regional strategy that links upland health and fish habitat with fish populations in targeted watersheds.

<https://wicouncil.tu.org/tu-projects/driftless-area-restoration-effort>



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

In 2005, in recognition of the need to address regional and range-wide threats to brook trout, a group of public and private entities formed the Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture (EBTJV) to halt the decline of brook trout and restore fishable populations of this iconic species. The EBTJV directs locally-driven efforts that build partnerships to improve fish habitat, working to ensure healthy, fishable brook trout populations throughout their historic eastern United States range. The EBTJV's long-term goals are to develop a comprehensive restoration and education strategy to improve aquatic habitats; build awareness through education; and raise federal, state, and local funds for brook trout conservation that will ultimately help enhance public use of brook trout and generally improve ecosystems and water quality within the watersheds they inhabit.

<http://easternbrooktrout.org>

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

Our vision rests on a belief that the combined experience, knowledge and skills of fishers and farmers can measurably improve the health of land and streams in the altered landscape of the Upper Mississippi River Basin. To advance this purpose, rural landowners voluntarily develop and implement science-based solutions to local water quality issues, with the support of conservationists. As landowners achieve their own goals for conservation and sustainable prosperity, successful practices will be demonstrated and effects measured, lessons will be learned and shared throughout the basin, and ultimately a globally significant landscape will be renewed.

<http://fishersandfarmers.org/>

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

The international Great Lakes Basin is a unique and biologically diverse region containing the largest surface freshwater system in the world, with sport and commercial fisheries valued at over \$7 billion annually. The fishery and aquatic resources of the Great Lakes have suffered detrimental effects of invasive species, loss of biodiversity, poor water quality, contaminants, loss or degradation of coastal wetlands, land use changes, and other factors.

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

Streams of the Great Plains are home to a wide diversity of aquatic fauna adapted to harsh changes in temperature and water availability. Low human population density has enabled many Great Plains streams to remain relatively unimpaired, yet aquatic species have experienced a slow but steady decline in abundance and diversity during the 20th Century and continue to face challenges that threaten their viability.

<http://www.prairiefish.org>



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

The Hawaii Fish Habitat Partnership is composed of a diverse group of partners that plan and implement a technically sound statewide aquatic habitat restoration program with a special focus on inland waters including streams, wetlands, and estuaries. Our partners include local watershed coalitions; private landowners who seek to establish sustainable aquatic resource management practices on their lands; federal and State aquatic resource agencies; and Native Hawaiian groups that seek to preserve aquatic resources as a cultural and natural resource legacy. The Hawaii Fish Habitat Partnership was recognized by the Board in March 2009.

<http://www.fws.gov/pacificislands/hfhp.html>

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

Kenai Peninsula Fish Habitat Partnership is a conservation partnership developing on the Kenai Peninsula, Alaska. This partnership is working with the National Fish Habitat Action Plan to protect, restore, and enhance our area's fish and aquatic communities.

<http://www.kenaifishpartnership.org/>

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

The Matanuska-Susitna Basin, or Mat-Su, covers 24,500 square miles in southcentral Alaska, roughly the combined size of Vermont, New Hampshire, and Massachusetts. The basin supports populations of chinook, coho, sockeye, pink and chum salmon as well as world-class rainbow trout, char, and grayling, making it one of the country's premier sportfishing and wildlife viewing destinations. Salmon and other fish are at the heart of Alaskan ecosystems, economy, and culture. The basin is also one of the fastest growing regions in the country, presenting unique challenges and opportunities to ensure thriving fish, healthy habitats, and vital communities in one region. The Matanuska-Susitna Basin Salmon Habitat Partnership (Partnership) formed to address increasing impacts on salmon from human use and development pressures in the Mat-Su basin and ensure that opportunities for growth and conservation go hand-in-hand.

<http://www.matsusalmon.org/>



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

Each year, millions of anglers fish on over 40,000 inland lakes across the Upper Midwest, seeking recreation, food, and the opportunity to catch “the big one”. These lakes, which were naturally formed by glaciers, are essential in supporting biodiversity, including the many threatened and endangered species that live in them. Fish populations in Midwest glacial lakes are dependent upon the healthy habitats that lakes provide, allowing them to grow, reproduce, and thrive. Stress from human development along lake shorelines, water quality decline driven by development and agriculture in watersheds, changing climate, invasive species, and many other factors threaten these fish populations. The Midwest Glacial Lakes Partnership was created in 2009 to coordinate and improve the conservation of fish habitat in the over 40,000 lakes across the Upper Midwest.

The MGLP’s partners work together to protect, rehabilitate, and enhance sustainable fish habitats in glacial lakes of the Midwest United States for the use and enjoyment of current and future generations. MGLP partners include the United States Fish and Wildlife Service; the United States Forest Service; the state natural resource agencies in Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wisconsin; national nonprofit organizations such as The Nature Conservancy; universities; and stakeholder organizations.

<http://www.midwestglaciallakes.org/>

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

The Ohio River Basin Fish Habitat Partnership was formed to protect, restore, and enhance priority habitat for fish and mussels in the watersheds of the Ohio River Basin. We pursue this mission for the benefit of the public, but what brings us to the table is as diverse as the basin itself. Whether it is sport fish, mussels, imperiled fish, water quality, or one of many other drivers, what bonds us is the Basin and our desire to work together to protect, restore, and enhance her aquatic resources.

<https://orbfhp.org/>

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

The Pacific Lamprey Conservation Initiative (PLCI) is a collaboration of Native American tribes, federal, state, municipal and local agencies working to conserve Pacific Lamprey throughout its range in California, Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and Alaska. The goal of the PLCI is to achieve long-term persistence of Pacific Lamprey and their habitats and support traditional tribal cultural use of Pacific Lamprey throughout their historic range in the United States. The intent of the partnership is to achieve this goal, where ecologically and economically feasible, by maintaining viable populations and their habitats in areas where they exist currently, restoring populations and their habitats where they are extirpated or at risk of extirpation, and doing so in a manner that addresses the importance of lamprey to tribal peoples. The PLCI envisions a future where threats to Pacific Lamprey and their habitats are reduced, and the historic geographic range and ecological role of Pacific Lamprey are restored to the greatest extent possible.

<https://www.fws.gov/pacific/fisheries/sphabcon/lamprey/lampreyCI.html>



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

The Pacific Marine and Estuarine Fish Habitat Partnership's (PMEP) mission is to protect, enhance, and restore ecological habitats within estuaries and nearshore marine environments to sustain healthy native fish communities and support sustainable human uses that depend on healthy fish populations.

The PMEP originated in 2009 when representatives from Oregon, Washington and California agencies and non-governmental entities met to discuss the need to protect and restore habitat for fish species that use estuaries and nearshore marine areas.

<http://www.pacificfishhabitat.org/>

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

Reservoirs are inextricable parts of our natural landscapes; they cannot be isolated or dismissed in conservation management. Constructed to meet a variety of human needs, they impact almost every major river system in the United States, affecting to various degrees habitat for fish and other aquatic species and, in turn, affected by the health of the watershed in which they reside. Reservoirs, their associated watersheds, and their downstream flows constitute interdependent, functioning systems. Effective management of these reservoir systems – maintaining their ecological function and biological health – is essential to the conservation of our nation's aquatic resources and their habitats. It requires that we minimize the adverse impacts of reservoirs on their watersheds (and watersheds upon reservoirs) and maximize their utility for aquatic habitat.

<http://www.friendsofreservoirs.com/>

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

The Southeast Alaska Fish Habitat Partnership works to foster cooperative fish habitat conservation in freshwater, estuarine and marine ecosystems across the southern panhandle of Alaska including the dynamic watersheds and waterways that make up the Alexander Archipelago. Covering nearly 17 million acres of this region is the Tongass National Forest, the largest national forest in the United States and a key producer of salmon. The Partnership's mission is to support cooperative fish habitat conservation, restoration, and management across the region with consideration of economic, social, and cultural interests of local communities in its efforts. The partnership's three priority conservation goals are to 1) protect fish habitat in freshwater systems, estuaries and nearshore-marine areas in Southeast, 2) maintain water quality and quantity in those areas, and 3) restore and enhance fragmented and degraded fish habitats in impacted areas. The Southeast Alaska Fish Habitat Partnership was recognized by the Board in March 2014.

<http://www.seakfhp.org/>



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

Southeast Aquatic Resources Partnership (SARP) was initiated in 2001 to address the myriad issues related to the management of aquatic resources in the southeastern United States, which includes about 26,000 miles of species-rich aquatic shoreline and over 70 major river basins. The area faces significant threats to its aquatic resources, as illustrated by the fact that 34% of North American fish species and 90% of the native mussel species designated as endangered, threatened, or of special concern are found in the Southeast.

<http://southeastaquatics.net/>

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

The Southwest Alaska Salmon Habitat Partnership is a made up of local communities, Native organizations, subsistence users, anglers, hunters, commercial fishing interests, lodge owners, hunting and fishing guides, tourism interests, non-profit organizations, federal, state, and local agencies and corporations and foundations working cooperatively to conserve fish, wildlife and habitat and perpetuate the uses they support through voluntary habitat conservation in Southwest Alaska.

<http://southwestsalmon.org/>

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

Trout are important as an “indicator species” of a watershed. When a watershed is in trouble, the trout are the first to die. Species like the greenback cutthroat, gila, and westslope cutthroat trout thrived in Western watersheds until their habitats were altered because of roads, dams, agriculture, and logging. Human introduction of non-native trout species, such as rainbow, brown and brook trout put further pressure on native species by out-competing them for food and by eating native fry. Conservation of Western native trout and their habitats is critical in maintaining their cultural, scientific and recreational value.

<http://www.westernnativetrout.org>

Attachment 2 – Selection of 2021 NFHP Project Photos & Descriptions



Photo Caption: Site of the historic removal of the lower Eklutna dam on the Eklutna River, Alaska in the Matanuska Susitna Basin Salmon Habitat Partnership. **Photo Credit:** Trout Unlimited

Project Description: The lower Eklutna Hydroelectric dam, built in 1929, blocked the migration of spawning salmon and was the first of two severe impacts to the Eklutna River system by hydroelectric projects and was abandoned when the second project was built upstream, diverting the entire flow of water. Over the course of 2017 and 2018, the defunct lower Eklutna dam was successfully removed in the most ambitious river restoration project ever attempted in Alaska. With support from the [Matanuska Susitna Basin Salmon Habitat Partnership](#), the Conservation Fund, the Native Village of Eklutna and Eklutna Inc. completed the 5- year, \$7.5 million effort to remove the lower Eklutna River dam. Known to its ancestral inhabitants as Idlughet, this area is among the traditional lands of the Eklutna Dena'ina who would overwinter along the shores of Eklutna Lake (Idlu Bena). The Eklutna River, Idlughentnu, and its wild salmon runs have long supported the Eklutna Dena'ina, however historic hydroelectric development on the river has greatly diminished the formerly flourishing salmon fisheries. The completion of this project will open up access to the necessary habitats for salmon in the region.



Photo Caption: Restored habitat for salmon as part of the second phase of this project in Lawrence Creek, California. Similar work will be done in Phase 3 to further enhance connectivity on Lawrence Creek with support from the California Fish Passage Forum. **Photo Credit:** Trout Unlimited

Project Description: Historically, thousands of salmon and Steelhead Trout returned annually to spawn in the rivers and streams of Northern California and Southern Oregon within the boundary of the [California Fish Passage Forum](#). Habitat alterations caused by land management, including historic logging practices, resulted in restricted access to important floodplain habitat and led to declines in these populations. Lawrence Creek, a tributary to Yager Creek and the Van Duzen River in Humboldt County, California. Lawrence Creek is among the most important Coho Salmon and Chinook Salmon streams in the Lower Eel River basin (CA Department of Fish and Wildlife 2017). The Lower Eel/Van Duzen River Coho Salmon population is at high risk of extinction (NOAA 2014), and within the Van Duzen River Basin, the Yager Creek sub-basin most likely maintains the highest salmonid fisheries value. Salmonids found in the Van Duzen River basin include the Southern Oregon/Northern California Coast (SONCC) Coho Salmon (status: threatened); California Coastal (CC) Chinook Salmon (status: threatened); and Northern California Steelhead Trout (status: threatened); as well as native cut-throat trout. Since 2015, partners in the region have been working collaboratively to restore access to floodplain habitat, including off-channel ponds and side channels, that provide important “winter refugia”- shelter from high flows during intense winter storm events, and increased habitat diversity that leads to improved food resources for fish. Monitoring of the first two connectivity projects in Lawrence Creek has shown that these listed fish will immediately occupy the restored habitat. To expand recovery efforts in the region, the California Fish Passage Forum joined partners NOAA Restoration Center, Humboldt Redwood Company, Trout Unlimited, and the Pacific Watershed Associates to construct a third pond with deep and shallow water habitats and wood debris to provide more winter rearing habitat for salmonids.



Photo Caption: Fishers and Farmers Partnership working with Ag Drainage Management Coalition at a Clean River Partners Field Day in Minnesota (left). Native Brook Trout caught by Minnesota Department of Natural Resources from Rice Creek, Minnesota (right). **Photo Credits:** Fishers & Farmers Partnership for the Upper Mississippi River Basin & Clean River Partners

Project Description: Over 12 farmers are working with [Clean River Partners](#) and [Fishers & Farmers Partnership](#) to improve water quality and protect fish habitat in Rice Creek, a tributary of the Cannon River Watershed in southeast Minnesota. Rice Creek is the only trout stream in Rice County, and a section of the Cannon River has been designated as a Wild and Scenic River by Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MN DNR). Minnesota's Wild and Scenic Rivers Program protects rivers that have outstanding natural, scenic, geographic, historic, cultural, and recreational value. This fish habitat project creates opportunities and events for non-farm and farming community members to learn from and support each other, adding great potential for sustained and perpetual practice change. It also creates farmer-to-farmer learning opportunities that promote best management practices and addresses farming impacts at the watershed scale. For example, this project demonstrated that by planting cover crops on a portion of tillable acres over time, farmers can significantly reduce the runoff of detrimental nutrients entering Rice Creek each year, protecting the local trout populations. Partners on this project besides Clean River Partners and Fishers & Farmers include: St. Olaf College, MN DNR, Rice Soil and Water Conservation District, Natural Resources Conservation Service, University of Minnesota Extension, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, Trout Unlimited, Compeer Financial, McKnight Foundation, Bridgewater Township, Circle Lake Association, Tri-Lakes Sportsmen's Club, and the National Fish Habitat Partnership.



Photo Caption: Aerial view of the Armstrong Dam and project site in Braintree, MA within the Atlantic Coastal Fish Habitat Partnership. **Photo Credit:** Town of Braintree, MA

Project Description: For many years, the former mill industry along the Monaquot River in Massachusetts impacted historic herring runs and disconnected species from their spawning grounds. Now the Armstrong Dam is the primary barrier to fish passage on the river. The dam no longer serves its original purpose and is also a public safety hazard. This project, led by the Town of Braintree in the [Atlantic Coastal Fish Habitat Partnership](#), will remove the Armstrong Dam. There is also a concurrent project to remove the downstream Ames Pond Dam and install a pool-and-weir fishway around Rock Falls. When these projects are completed, 36 miles of unimpeded upstream access to 180 acres of river herring spawning habitat will be restored. This project will provide river herring access to spawning grounds, which have been blocked for centuries by dams. The subsequent increase in these forage fish should benefit recreational fish species such as striped bass and bluefish. The removal of the dam will also improve public safety by removing a flooding hazard.



Guidance for the National Fish Habitat Partnership Waters to Watch Campaign

Goal of the Waters to Watch Campaign:

The Waters to Watch campaign, implemented in support of the National Fish Habitat Action Plan, aims to demonstrate that science-based aquatic habitat conservation actions make a difference to benefit aquatic habitats, local communities, anglers, and economies. The Waters to Watch campaign raises the visibility of some of the best on-the-ground aquatic habitat conservation projects implemented by individual Fish Habitat Partnerships (FHPs). The Waters to Watch campaign aims to raise the visibility and support for the National Fish Habitat Partnership (NFHP).

The campaign highlights 10 projects on an annual basis to:

- i) Focus attention on local efforts carried out by FHPs to implement the National Fish Habitat Partnership;
- ii) Garner local and national support for, and raise awareness of, the benefits to aquatic habitat, local communities, anglers, and economies from actions implemented through the National Fish Habitat Partnership; and
- iii) Strengthen existing and develop new partnerships with collaborators who share NFHP's mission and goals to protect, restore, and enhance fish and aquatic communities.

Since 2007, the Waters to Watch campaign has featured over 130 model aquatic conservation projects. These projects have received media recognition across the country, raising public awareness of the activities of the FHPs. The Waters to Watch campaign provides an excellent opportunity for FHPs to publicize the progress, accomplishments, and success within the geographic area of your FHP. It also affords opportunities at the national level to strengthen existing partners and garner national and local support for your FHP and NFHP.

How to Get Involved in the Waters to Watch Campaign:

All FHPs can nominate projects for selection for the 2022 Waters to Watch campaign. Due to the number of Board-recognized FHPs, increased competition is expected for the submission process compared with previous years. FHPs may nominate more than one project and rank their order of preference. However, only one project per FHP (submissions dependent) may be selected in fairness to other FHPs. Not all FHPs will have a project selected for the Waters to Watch Campaign in each year.

Projects nominated for the 2022 Waters to Watch campaign should have been completed by (September 2020), or be scheduled to be completed by (September 2023).

Retrospective Waters to Watch

The NFHP Board endorsed the concept of featuring retrospective projects in the Waters to Watch campaign in October 2019. Up to (5) Waters to Watch projects completed in prior years and featured in a previous campaign will be considered for nomination to the current years' projects. If you have a project that has a conservation update that has benefitted fish populations and fish habitat, or has other needs for being re-featured, please consider a submission of a previously featured Waters to Watch project.

Selection Criteria for Waters to Watch Projects:

The original criteria for selecting projects for the Waters to Watch campaign were approved by the NFHP Board in March 2012. The criteria listed below are based on the original criteria and were revised in 2019. Project selection will be based on these criteria, although not all categories may apply to all project nominations. Waters to Watch project nominations will be evaluated by the NFHP Board Partnerships Committee and Communications Committee. Considerations for nominating a project:

- Size and scope of project (projects large in scope and offering the greatest impact to habitat improvement are preferred for selection).
- Media friendly projects (e.g. site tour access & availability, communications/outreach plan or documents, photos available).
- Involvement of charismatic leaders and dedicated partners on the project.
- Strong community support/involvement in the project.
- Volunteer involvement in the project.
- Youth participation and education involved in the project.
- Demonstrable benefits — Upon completion, the project should be able to demonstrate benefits of protection or restoration to aquatic habitats, species, local communities, anglers, and economies. Project submissions should include a monitoring plan to quantify project progress and benefits.
- Funding opportunities — Projects where the probability of strong partnerships and likelihood of multiple funding opportunities are preferred.
- Project economic benefits need to be calculated through FHP economic tool (created in 2012 – Gentner) <http://gentnergroupp.com/NFHAP/>
(Username: NFHAP Password: economic)

Waters to Watch Project Reporting:

Regular reporting and updates are important for future success of the Waters to Watch Campaign. Waters to Watch projects will submit brief reports twice during the year in which the project is featured to the Program Manager, Ryan Roberts rroberts@fishwildlife.org.

Following the year in which a project is featured in the Waters to Watch campaign, project coordinators are also required to submit updates twice throughout the year to the Program Manager to demonstrate the project's improvements for aquatic habitats, local communities, anglers, and economies. Quality

photos of the project that illustrate project benefits must be provided to the Program Manager along the report, which will help to enhance the story of the project.

Waters to Watch reports will be used for the following:

- Potential generation of media attention (articles, news stories).
- Project site visits for partners, members of state and federal agencies, members of state and local governments and members of Congress and staff.
- Developing one-sheet (PDF) documents for each of the projects to document progress.
- General updates – tracking project accomplishments and partner involvement, volunteer opportunities, or educational initiatives.

The 2022 Waters to Watch campaign timeline is as follows:

Deadline	Action
April 7, 2022	Deadline for W2W submissions from FHPs
April 14, 2022	Conference call of Partnerships Committee/Communications Committee to discuss project submissions and develop a 2022 W2W project list
Early May	2022 W2W Project list sent to Board for endorsement/approval at May Board Meeting (Date TBD)
May 21, 2022	2022 Waters to Watch announcement in conjunction with World Fish Migration Day .

Communicating Waters to Watch:

The marketing of the 2022 Waters to Watch campaign will be coordinated with the FHPs of selected projects and will include:

- A National press release and potentially individual press releases highlighting specific projects at a local level.
- Targeted social media promotion via Facebook and Twitter.
- Announcement via NFHP newsletter.
- Coordination with public relations contacts within state/federal agencies and conservation organizations to raise awareness of these projects. This could include website features on state/federal agency websites or news related articles.
- Coordination with other NFHP committees and FHPs to incorporate Waters to Watch announcement into other education and outreach efforts.
- Features of Waters to Watch on National Fish Habitat Partnership website.

Suggestions for FHPs if your project is selected for W2W:

- Please provide multiple high-quality images of your projects.

- Please use the hashtags (#Fishhabitat #W2W22) for your social media posts (if you have an account for your FHP).
- Please try to obtain at least one minute of video of the project site, river, stream, lake, estuary, or conservation work being done on the site.



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National Fish Habitat Partnership/Bass Pro Shops Grant Program

Background:

The National Fish Habitat Partnership is pleased to announce that a grants program will be established in late 2021 to benefit FHPs under the National Fish Habitat Partnership. This grant program is being made possible through proceeds from the [Bass Pro Shops US Open National Bass Fishing Amateur Team Championships](#). The tournaments will benefit local fish habitat with proceeds supporting the National Fish Habitat Partnership (NFHP). One-third of all entry fees will be matched equally with donations from both Bass Pro Shops and Tournament sponsor Toyota. This amount will be equal to 100 percent of all entry fees - to benefit conservation through our partnerships. While the total amount available for the grant program is unknown, it is expected to be between \$1 Million and \$1.5 Million.

Grant Structure:

This grant program will be implemented through Beyond the Pond, the 501c3 organization established to benefit the National Fish Habitat Partnership. **Through this grant opportunity, the highest priority will be for projects specifically designed to improve aquatic habitat within reservoirs resulting in enhanced angling opportunities. Funding may also be used to improve natural lake habitats and conserve tributary flows into lakes and reservoirs.**

Examples of on the ground conservation could include, Riparian and underwater vegetation planting, shoreline native habitat planting, bank sloping and shaping in tributaries, and habitat structure placement.

Criteria:

To help applicants put forward the best possible projects, the National Fish Habitat Partnership and Beyond the Pond, has established a set of criteria by which projects are evaluated for funding. Applicants should address these criteria in their project applications.

All grant projects meeting the criteria will be considered regardless of amount of funding requested.

Please send your proposals in a word or PDF Format to Ryan Roberts, rroberts@fishwildlife.org by COB, April 8th. A subset of National Fish Habitat Board members will review grant proposals following the April deadline for submissions. Please include at least three project or site photos along with your submission. Successfully funded projects must utilize all grant funds for this opportunity by 9/1/2023.

The deadline to submit a project application under the Small Grants Program is COB March 30, 2022. We hope to receive some great projects to implement in hopes to continue this grant program for future years. Incomplete applications will not be accepted. Please feel free to contact rroberts@fishwildlife.org with questions.

NFHP/Bass Pro Shops Small Grants Program: Application Review/Ranking Criteria for Applicant Reference

Project Eligibility Screening*

- 1) Does this project specifically benefit on-the-ground habitat conservation work? (Y/N)
- 2) Does this project conserve habitat in any of the following systems: Reservoirs, Natural Lakes, or Tributaries that connect Reservoirs or Lakes? (Y/N)
- 3) Does this project support the objectives/measures below? (Y/N) If yes, which ones?
 - a. *fulfills a local or regional priority that is directly linked to the strategic plan of the Partnership, is consistent with the mission and goals for NFHP, and is consistent with the purpose of this grant program;*
 - b. *addresses one of more of the [national priorities](#) established by the Board;*
 - c. *is supported by the findings of the habitat assessment of the Partnership or the Board, and aligns or is compatible with other conservation plans;*
 - d. *identifies appropriate monitoring and evaluation measures;*
 - e. *provides a well-defined budget linked to deliverables and outcomes;*
 - f. *leverages other funds to implement the project;*
 - g. *addresses the causes, factors, or processes behind the decline of fish or fish habitat;*
 - h. *includes an outreach or education component that includes the local or regional community;*
 - i. *will increase fish populations in a manner that leads to improved recreational fishing opportunities;*
 - j. *increases public access to land or water for fish and wildlife-dependent recreational opportunities;*
- 4) Is this project implemented through one of the FHPs under the National Fish Habitat Partnership? (Y/N)
- 5) Will this project be completed within 18 Months of the funding being received? (Y/N)
- 6) Proposals must be well-written, complete with budget information, and clearly conveys sufficient information to evaluate project.

* If a project does meet each of the six stated criteria, it will not be considered for potential funding.

Conservation Benefits (50 points possible)

- 1) Does this benefit the habitat for Reservoirs, Natural Lakes, or Tributaries that connect Reservoirs or Lakes? If yes explain technical merits of the project?
- 2) Does this project benefit sportfish species? if so which species?
- 3) Explain in one paragraph, how this project will benefit fish populations in the target water(s).
- 4) Will this project improve angling opportunities and by how much?
- 5) Will this project include quantifiable habitat measures/benefits (i.e. Stream Miles restored, amount of structural habitat added, vegetation planted)? Please provide specifics on the amount of habitat to be conserved.

Community Involvement (20 Points)

- 1) Please explain how this project will foster/generate a community conservation ethic through citizen/youth involvement?
- 2) Will the project have local community involvement? If yes, please provide specifics.

Involvement with partners (30 points possible)

- 1) Please list the appropriate/relevant partners that are involved (i.e. other state or federal agencies, or nonprofit partners) in the project and their contributions to the project (in-kind or cash).
- 2) Please explain how each budget item includes all FHP contributions.
- 3) Be sure to explain how this grant award catalyzes or sparks other partners or future or ongoing efforts.



4) Please detail any outreach component included in this project