

April 30, 2024

The logo features a blue silhouette of a fish on the left, with a wavy line representing water or a stream extending from its tail. To the right of the fish, the word "NATIONAL" is written in a smaller, blue, sans-serif font. Below "NATIONAL", the words "FISH HABITAT" are written in a large, bold, blue, sans-serif font. Underneath "FISH HABITAT", the word "PARTNERSHIP" is written in a smaller, blue, sans-serif font.

NATIONAL
FISH HABITAT
PARTNERSHIP

Policy Committee Update

FISHHABITAT.ORG

Policy Committee

- **Board awareness and discussion:** ACE Act re-authorization updates
- **Board awareness:** Federal agency contribution summaries
- **Board awareness:** Other policy committee activities

ACE Act Re - Authorization Activity

- Bill passed out of Senate EPW without any contention
- Bill is being hotlined in the Senate
- Potential next steps
 - Pass through Senate (hopefully without objections)
 - Use that as leverage to get it through the House as is
- Changes that have made it into the base text of ACE Act 2.0

Ace Act 2.0

- Adding two Board Seats (BLM, and ensuring EFMC and MFC have a seat)
- ACE Act funding timeline – remove “following fiscal year” language to provide flexible funding timeline driven by the Board
- Federal match requirement changes
 - 50% of the total cost of all fish habitat conservation projects come from non-Federal funds (Partnership level match)
 - Board authority to recommend operations funding have no cost-share
- Add BLM to agencies receiving technical assistance and get funding for it
- Increase authorization funding to \$10 million (from \$7.2)
- Add an authorization of \$1M for the National Fish Habitat Assessment

Ace Act 2.0

- Reauthorization of the NFHP program through 2030
- Clarification on annual report on updates to FHPs: required only when there are changes
- Clarification on 5-year summary report: have one condensed report as opposed to two overlapping reports
- Exemption to be added that would allow FHP coordination “projects” to be submitted without non-Federal match requirement

Federal Agency Contribution Summary

Policy Committee / NFHP Chair requested (November 2023)

Action: a qualitative or quantitative (i.e., funding, staff resources, where possible) estimate of scientific and technical support, and (if any) additional NFHP support provided by the five partner agencies of NFHP

- Annual average of support since the passage of the ACE Act
- Back of the envelope calculation

Federal Agency Contribution Summary

- Received responses from all 5 agencies
- Responses varied
- 1/5 agencies receive appropriated funds (USFWS)
- 3/5 agencies indicated agencies support at about or more than the authorized level (400K), but do not receive direct NFHP appropriations
 - Examples include: NFHP staff support, FHP coordination, FHP and NFHP committees, outreach and education, and leveraged funding
- Follow up with individual agencies to see if they want assistance making the request for funding through OMB and their agencies (policy committee support)

Other Activities

- Submitted appropriations requests to House and Senate for FY25
- Hill visits schedule for the afternoon of May 1st and all day May 2nd
 - Coordinating with Ducks Unlimited
- ACE Act / NFHP Fact Sheet



NATIONAL FISH HABITAT PARTNERSHIP

S.3791 - America's Conservation Enhancement Reauthorization Act

Streambank stabilization on Huzzah Creek, Missouri**

Tribal crew installing bank stabilizing woody debris in Tongas N.F. Alaska**

Living shoreline in North Carolina***

NATIONAL FISH HABITAT PARTNERSHIP

The mission of the National Fish Habitat Partnership (NFHP) is to protect, restore and enhance the nation's fish and aquatic communities through 20 regional partnerships that foster fish habitat conservation and improve the quality of life for the American people. Through voluntary, collaborative, non-regulatory habitat restoration projects, NFHP has a huge conservation impact, leveraging federal funds at a 4:1 ratio through partnerships and collective efforts of federal, state, non-governmental organizations and tribes.

ABOUT THE ACE ACT REAUTHORIZATION

In 2020, the American Conservation Enhancement (ACE) Act was enacted. This bipartisan bill authorized or reauthorized numerous conservation efforts that benefit habitat and wildlife throughout the country. With many of these programs, such as NFHP, nearing the end of their authorization, the ACE Reauthorization Act (S. 3791) would continue and enhance these vital conservation programs.

We urge members of Congress to support the ACE Act Reauthorization to continue the impactful work of regional fish habitat partnerships, protect our nation's natural beauty, and conserve our wildlife.

ORIGINAL SPONSORS: Sen. Tom Carper (D-DE), Sen. Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV).
CO-SPONSORS: Sen. Ben Cardin (D-MD), Sen. John Boozman (R-AR), Sen. Alex Padilla (D-CA), Sen. Roger Wicker (R-MS.), Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI), Sen. Markwayne Mullin (R-OK), and Sen. Chris Van Hollen (D-MD), Sen. Bill Cassidy (R-LA), Sen. Ron Wyden (D-OR), Sen. Cindy Hyde-Smith (R-MS).

SUPPORTERS: Ducks Unlimited, the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation, the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership, the National Wildlife Federation, American Sportfishing Association, the Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies, and Backcountry Hunters and Anglers.

1,400+
Projects funded, with projects in all 50 states

\$350 MILLION
Leveraged dollars, including \$250 million non-federal dollars

1,700+
Partners organizations, including federal, state, non-governmental organizations and tribes.

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