

July 31, 2024

The logo features a stylized blue fish on the left, with its body forming a wavy shape that suggests water. 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

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# Policy Committee

- **Board awareness and discussion:** ACE Act re-authorization updates
- **Board awareness:** Technical and scientific support next steps
- **Board awareness:** Other policy committee activities

# ACE Act Re - Authorization Activity

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- Bill introduced into the House
  - Overall, language remains the same as the House
  - Only exception, no increase in funding authorization levels
- House ACE Act Reauthorization Fact Sheet Available
- Next steps

# Ace Act 2.0 (House Version)

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- 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 (House Version)

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- 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

# Scientific & Technical Support

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- Thank you to federal agencies who provided summaries of their NFHP scientific and technical support
- NFHP Policy committee recognizes an opportunity to request scientific and technical support appropriations for FY 26
  - **Proposal: collaborate with federal agencies\* to submit a formal request to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and advocate for inclusion in the President's budget**
- Request from the Board: a sense of whether or not policy committee proceed with this approach
  - **Suggested next steps for engaging with federal agencies**

# Other Policy Committee Activities

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- Congressional designation: sent letters to staff members of the committees listed in the ACE Act requesting feedback on designation submission
- The committee is working on a governance document that outlines the terms of reference for the committee