

NATIONAL FISH HABITAT ACTION PLAN UPDATE





**ACTION
PLAN
REVISION
TEAM
MEMBERS**

- Anne Kinsinger (Federal Agency)
- Pat Rivers (State Agency)
- Adam Ringia (Tribes)
- Gene Gilliland (Recreational Fishing)
- Chris Moore (Board At-Large)
- Steve Perry (Board At-Large)
- Todd Ewing, Lori Maloney, Holly Steindorf (FHP Coordinators)
- Jason Olive and Alex McOwen (Board Staff)

PROCESS TIMELINE

| Action | Deadline |
|---|--|
| AP Team Formed, Draft Mission and Goals Developed | November 2024 Board Meeting |
| Survey NFHP Board Members and FHP Coordinators to Inform Objectives | November-December 2024 |
| Survey Key Stakeholders to Inform Objectives | January-February 2025 |
| Draft AP Introductory Materials, Mission and Goals, and Descriptive Sections | January 2025 Board Meeting |
| Revisions to Draft Intro, Report on Stakeholder Input and Development of SMART Objectives | June 2025 Board Meeting |
| Completion of External Reviews | Fall 2025 Board Meeting |
| Final Draft for Board Approval | December 2025 Board Meeting |
| Graphic Design and Printing | April 2026- 20 th Anniversary Celebration |

NFHP MISSION

- The mission of the National Fish Habitat Partnership Action Plan is to protect, restore and enhance the nation's fish and aquatic communities through partnerships that foster fish habitat conservation, **increase fishing opportunities**, and improve the quality of life for the American people.

Proposed new
element of AP!

ACTION PLAN PURPOSE STATEMENT

- The purpose of this Action Plan is to provide a blueprint to define and measure successful implementation of the National Fish Habitat Partnership.

DRAFT GOALS



Provide national leadership and coordination.



Mobilize and focus national, regional, and local support for fish habitat conservation.



Achieve measurable, science-based fish habitat conservation outcomes.



Evaluate and communicate the status of fish habitats and address gaps in scientific knowledge.

BOARD MEMBER, STAFF, AND FHP COORDINATOR SURVEY

- Conducted during November 7 through January 10
- 27 total responses (53%)
- Responses will be used by the Action Plan team when developing strategic objectives and actions

WHAT ROLE SHOULD NFHP PLAY AS A NATIONAL ENTITY ADDRESSING FISH HABITAT CONSERVATION?



A national voice for fish habitat



A convener/coordinator of all potential partners



Primary sources of information on fish habitat conservation



Seek funding



Set national priorities

WHAT SPECIFIC ACTIONS CAN THE NFHP BOARD TAKE OVER THE NEXT FIVE YEARS TO EFFECTIVELY SUPPORT THE FISH HABITAT PARTNERSHIPS?



Communications and marketing



Complete assessment and assist with science & data needs



Get Beyond the Pond running/ acquire funding



Policy/Hill Visits/Connect with new Administration



Advocacy with state fish and wildlife agencies

IN YOUR EXPERIENCE, WHAT HAS NFHP DONE WELL?



Provided “scaffolding” for FHPs



Got ACE Act passed



Project tracking database



Raised awareness of habitat problems



Leveraged funding

IN YOUR EXPERIENCE, WHAT HAS NFHP DONE POORLY?



Beyond the Pond/ Not acquired additional funding



Communications/marketing- little visibility outside of fisheries profession



Assessments- Western habitats not accurately characterized



Cumbersome and bureaucratic processes



Hasn't secured durable buy-in from federal agencies

IN LIGHT OF YOUR ANSWER TO QUESTION 1, WHAT ARE THE INDICATORS THAT WE SHOULD MEASURE TO DETERMINE WHETHER OR NOT WE HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFUL?



Increased funding



Increased partner organizations



Increased use of the assessment



Increased “mentions” of NFHP by agencies and NGOs on websites, etc.



Project-related metrics (e.g., number completed, measured impacts)

EXTERNAL PARTNER SURVEY

- Conducted January 21-31, 2025
- Sent to ~ 140 people
- Responses will be used by the Action Plan team when developing strategic objectives and actions

DISCUSSION