



Board Meeting Book

**November 18, 2025
Virtual Meeting**

National Fish Habitat Board Meeting Notes

Wednesday, September 17 -- Thursday, September 18, 2025

Cambria Hotel 8001 Winstead Way Bloomington, MN 55425

Day 1 - Wednesday, September 17, 2025

1:00 – 4:30 PM CDT/2:00 – 5:30 PM EDT

[Webinar Link](#)

	Last Name	First Name	September 17	September 18
1	Allen	Stan	X	X
2	Austen	Doug	X	X
3	Branham/Jepsen	Sharif/Sharmilla	X	X
4	Carter	Julie	X	X
5	Gilliland	Gene	X	X
6	Golden	David	X	X
7	Horton	Chris	X	X
8	Kruse	Carter	X	X
9	Leonard	Mike	X	X
10	Lohr	Steve	X	X
11	Micciche	Peter	X	?
12	Miko	David	X	X
13	Moore	Chris	X	X
14	Moore	Bryan	X	X
15	Nakayama	Ian	X	X
16	O Keefe	John	X	X
17	Perry	Steve	X	X
18	Rauch/Meckley	Sam/Kara	X	X
19	Ringia/Estes	Adam/Christopher	X	X
20	Rivers	Pat	X	X
21	Schaeffer	Tim	X	X
22	Schumann	Sarah	X	X
23	Shimoda	Risa	X	X
24	Slager	Jake	X	X

25	Trushenski	Jesse	X	?
26	Wagner/Hu	Paul/Dave	X	X
27	Will/Robinson	Ted/Scott	X	X
28	Wright	Charles	-	-

Time (CDT)	Agenda Item	Tab	Lead(s)
1:00 PM	Welcome <i>Desired Outcomes:</i> • Around the room introductions • Board action to approve agenda and June 2025 meeting summary. • Board members' upcoming/past events	1	Chair Tim Schaeffer & All Attendees
The National Fish Habitat Board meeting commenced with a warm welcome and appreciation for attendees' time and commitment. Special thanks were extended to Pat Rivers and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources for hosting, and to Kelly Wilder for facilitating the Fish Habitat Partnership workshop. Board members introduced themselves and were encouraged to provide feedback throughout the session. Primary discussions will be held among board members, with occasional input from the audience. Participants were asked to raise their hands, either in person or virtually, to contribute. The agenda for the meeting was reviewed and approved, and the notes from the June Board meeting were formally approved.			
1:30 PM	Upcoming Board Meeting Schedule Preview <i>Desired Outcomes:</i> • Board awareness of upcoming meeting schedule.	2	Alex McOwen (NFHP Board Staff)
Alex presented remotely and shared the upcoming Board meeting schedule, as outlined in Board book tab 2. She noted a change in the date for the final 2025 virtual meeting, which is scheduled for November 18 from 1–5 PM ET. The first Board meeting of 2026 was planned as an in-person gathering on January 28–29 at Table Rock Lake, Missouri, home of Bass Pro Shops. Additional 2026 meeting dates were still to be determined and were expected to be announced during the November meeting, with tentative plans for a virtual session in late April or early May, an in-person meeting in the last week of July, and another virtual meeting in the first week of November.			

1:40 PM	Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Welcome <i>Desired Outcomes:</i> • Board welcomed by local Department of Natural Resources leadership.		Kelly Straka (<i>Director, MN DNR</i>)
Pat Rivers gave a warm welcome and shared highlights about Minnesota’s rich aquatic heritage. He noted that the headwaters of the Mississippi River are located in the state, which is home to an impressive 11,842 lakes. Minnesota also boasts the largest freshwater estuary and a thriving fishing industry, supported by the presence of 19 Fortune 500 companies. Additionally, the state is actively engaged in fish habitat conservation, being represented in six Fish Habitat Partnerships (FHPs).			
1:55 PM	The Recreational Fishing Industry and Fish Habitat Conservation <i>Desired Outcomes:</i> • Board awareness of the role of the fishing industry and the Sport Fish Restoration Program to fish habitat conservation.		Steve Quinn (<i>In-Fisherman, retired</i>) & Craig Kelling (<i>USFWS</i>)
Steve Quinn and Craig Kelling briefed the Board on the Sport Fish Restoration Program and its ties to the fishing industry. Steve Quinn, a hall of fame angler and former regional fisheries biologist, emphasized the importance of partnerships, media engagement, and community involvement through initiatives like the Black Bass Symposium (NEXUS), Pro Bass Tournaments, Friends of Reservoirs raffles, and Bass Pro’s round-up program. He also highlighted emerging threats to water quality—including pharmaceuticals, microplastics, PFAs, 6PPD quinone from tires, and boat wakes—and stressed the need for innovative solutions like filtration devices and broad collaboration. Craig Kelling, from the USFWS Office of Conservation Investment, celebrated the 75th anniversary of the Sport Fish Restoration Act, which has allocated approximately \$19 billion to states since 1950 through excise taxes on fishing equipment. He shared success stories such as over 1 billion fish stocked annually, 320+ hatcheries operated, and restoration of more than 1.2 million acres of inland habitat. Kelling also described the Partner with a Payer Program, which connects manufacturers with state agencies through filmed events available online. The discussion included ideas for expanding outreach, developing toolkits, creating consistent messaging, and producing a NFHP Partner with a Payer video next field season. Emphasis was placed on improving water quality education, showcasing community impacts, and leveraging platforms like social media and podcasts.			
2:50 PM	BREAK		
3:10 PM	FHP Workshop Report Out <i>Desired Outcomes:</i> • Board awareness of outcomes of the FHP workshop.		FHP Coordinators

Simen Kaalstad (Atlantic Coastal Fish Habitat Partnership) presented, on behalf of FHPS, the outcomes of the FHP workshop held over the previous 1.5 days. Facilitated by Kelly Wilder of the Minnesota DNR—who played a key role in developing the agenda—the workshop focused on relationship building and peer learning among coordinators, exploring strategies for resilience in a changing operational environment, strengthening connections between FHPs and the National Fish Habitat Board, and maximizing the collective impact of NFHP and its partnerships. Key themes included enhancing capacity and collaboration, improving communications and outreach, advancing funding and resource development, integrating science, data, and landscape planning, and elevating Tribal engagement. Appreciation was expressed to Kelly Wilder for her facilitation, which enabled staff to fully engage in the workshop.			
3:25 PM	Local FHP Presentation Midwest Glacial Lakes Partnership	8	Joe Nohner (<i>MGLP Coordinator</i>)
Joe Nohner will presented on the Midwest Glacial Lakes Partnership (MGLP), the Fish Habitat Partnership (FHP) he coordinates spanning nine states and engaging over 3,000 partners. With an estimated \$21.1 billion in economic impact, MGLP addresses key challenges such as watershed degradation, shoreline loss, water quality decline, and fish passage barriers. The partnership supports a wide range of initiatives—including on-the-ground projects, assessments, education and outreach, and a practitioner forum—with notable efforts at Lake Lizzie and Prairie Lakes (MN), Pickerel Lake (SD), Fish Sticks (WI), and the Wawasee Inlets Nutrient Study (IN). MGLP’s funding impact includes a \$5 million America the Beautiful project, and its science contributions span aquatic vegetation assessments, climate change planning, and published research. Outreach efforts are robust, with 125,000 copies of the Shoreline Living publication distributed (funded by MSCG), a Contractor Tip Sheet/Brochure, and a webinar series that has hosted 54 events since 2019, drawing 3,800 attendees and 6,200 YouTube views.			
3:40 PM	USFWS Update <i>Desired Outcomes:</i> Board awareness of FY26 budget outlook and other USFWS items of interest.		David Miko (<i>NFHP Board</i>)
David Miko attended virtually to share updates from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, including the latest budget figures, FY2026 project list, and program implementation progress. He discussed the interagency fish passage task force and highlighted plans for America’s 250th anniversary, which aimed to promote outdoor access nationwide—such as free youth fishing in Washington, D.C. during the 2026 Capitol Cast event. Miko also introduced new staff under the incoming Director, many of whom hailed from the western U.S. Budget discussions included a continuing resolution of \$1.68 billion, a presidential proposal of \$1.14 billion, and anticipated reductions from both the House and Senate, though the NFHP budget remained stable and the Appropriations Bill was still uncertain. FY2026 projects were expected to be signed by the Secretary before September 25. Expansion of			

NFHP was ongoing, though the SFBCP remained paused due to an unsigned charter and a vacant seat, with no timeline available. He also reported on the pending \$26 million Recreational Boating & Fishing Foundation Outreach Grant, which received 200 proposals from 170 entities across 21 states, totaling \$500 million in requests, with awards anticipated by the end of the calendar year.

3:50 PM	The Intermountain West Joint Venture Model for Funding On-the-Ground Conservation Work <i>Desired Outcomes:</i> • Board awareness of a successful model of partnership-based landscape-scale habitat conservation.		Dave Smith (<i>IWJV Coordinator</i>)
Dave Smith shared the evolution and success of the joint venture (JV) model as an alternative approach to funding conservation work. Unlike the NFHP model, JV funding—approximately \$300K per venture—was strategically redirected from on-the-ground projects to hiring staff who then successfully secured grants from NRCS, BLM, and USFS. Since its inception, the JV grew from 2 full-time staff to 17 FTEs and jointly supported an additional 45 positions at NGOs and partner agencies through external funding. In 2007, the JV operated with 4.5 FTEs, a \$890K budget, and a 9-member Board, allocating \$310K annually to projects. Over time, it eliminated its habitat program to focus on strategic capacity building and recruited state directors to strengthen its leadership. Between 2012 and 2016, the JV facilitated \$295 million in on-the-ground conservation, notably through sage grouse efforts. By 2025, the JV had expanded to a \$6.75 million budget, a 19-member staff (including 2 PhDs and 3 communications specialists), and 46 field capacity positions—most employed by WAFWA, with only two federal staff. The JV’s work encompassed field delivery, science-to-implementation, strategic communications, partnership development, and government relations. A \$100K investment in staffing typically yielded \$1 million in conservation funding. Board recruitment from the private sector brought valuable connections, including two planned DC fly-ins in 2025. Growth was driven by partner contributions, and agency missions were integrated through joint management of field capacity roles. Smith’s presentation offered the NFHP Board a compelling example of how appropriated funding could be leveraged for landscape-scale conservation.			
4:50 PM	ADJOURN		
5:00 PM	Social Gathering at Hazelwood Food and Drink		

Day 2 – Thursday, September 18, 2025
9:00 AM – 4:00 PM CDT/10:00 AM - 5:00 PM EDT

[Webinar Link](#)

30 people online

Time (CDT)	Agenda Item	Tab	Lead(s)
9:00 AM	Welcome Back		Chair Tim Schaeffer
The second day of the NFHP Board meeting began with a warm welcome and reflections on the previous evening's social time, which offered valuable opportunities for Board members and FHP coordinators to connect. The agenda was full, and it was noted that the Vice Chair, Stan Allen, would take over meeting facilitation following the afternoon break. Discussions included Dave Smith's presentation and subsequent conversations with federal partners about identifying and filling strategic gaps in conservation efforts. The importance of Board members and their roles was emphasized, along with the potential for a "Partner with a Payer" model to support multiple FHPs—an idea Tim planned to explore further with Tom. The group also reaffirmed its commitment to promoting NFHP's mission and visibility, particularly through engagement with AFWA.			
9:05 AM	2026 Action Plan Discussion <i>Desired Outcomes:</i> • Board discussion on content of first full draft of the Action Plan, possible agency signatories, and plans for public roll-out.		Alex McOwen and Jason Olive (NFHP Board Staff)
Jason and Alex presented an overview of the draft third edition of the NFHP Action Plan, inviting Board discussion, questions, and feedback. The full draft was scheduled to be distributed via email following the meeting for written comments. The presentation acknowledged the contributions of the drafting team—Jason Olive, Gene Gilliland, Adam Ringia, Steve Perry, Pat Rivers, Ian Nakayama, Lori Maloney, Holly Steindorf, and Todd Ewing—who helped shape a bold vision for NFHP's next five years. Discussions focused on national leadership and coordination, including the role of the National Conservation Priorities (NCP), the scope of the Interagency Task Force, and the integration of regional AFWA efforts and State Wildlife Action Plans. Board members debated goal timelines, growth metrics, and the importance of maintaining priorities. Advocacy strategies were explored, with suggestions to elevate NFHP's visibility within broader federal fish habitat programs and upcoming legislation like the Farm Bill. The group considered ways to mobilize support, including stewardship pledges, field visits tied to reauthorization, and enhanced communications through partner events and media engagement. Recommendations were made to ensure FHPs have bi-directional communications plans and to incorporate annual feedback into national workplans. The Board also discussed representation			

from commercial and recreational fishing sectors, proposing goals for coastal and marine FHP steering committees and exploring metrics to evaluate stakeholder engagement. Under the goal of achieving measurable, science-based outcomes, members emphasized the importance of regular strategic plan updates, hosting workshops, and maintaining a best practices hub. The potential development of a socioeconomic calculator was noted, pending external funding. While the draft was not yet public, it was deemed appropriate to share with individuals engaged in national-level conservation strategy.

10:30 AM	BREAK		
10:45 AM	NFHP 20th Anniversary Celebration Plans <i>Desired Outcomes:</i> • Board awareness and discussion of events and communications efforts planned for 2026.	3	Jake Slager (NFHP Board) and Ryan Roberts (NFHP Board Staff)
Jake Slager, as the new Chair of the Communications Committee, shared the Committee's planning progress and vision for celebrating the NFHP 20th Anniversary. The proposed multimedia campaign aimed to elevate awareness and recognition of NFHP's mission to protect, restore, and enhance fish habitat through in-person events, site tours, social media engagement, advertising partnerships, and commemorative materials. Planning included a 2026 events calendar featuring regional association gatherings, national seafood events, state free fishing days, and billfish tournaments. The Committee brainstormed promotional ideas such as a 20th anniversary logo, posters, tote bags, digital products with QR codes, and a coordinated social media campaign. They explored advertising opportunities in state fishing regulations and agency digests, and emphasized the importance of timing for print deadlines. Additional ideas included honoring original NFHP members monthly, hosting a virtual founders' discussion in April 2026, and recognizing contributors through the Stan Moberly Award and a proposed Habitat Hall of Fame. The Committee also discussed corporate donation challenges, newsletter content, and a potential congressional designation of a fish habitat day, month, or year. A new Instagram account was launched to showcase FHP projects, and MeatEater pledged a \$500 contribution in exchange for media and trivia engagement. The Board was encouraged to review the FHP toolkit and consider how evolving technologies might shape future outreach.			
11:30 AM	Multistate Conservation Grants Discussion <i>Desired Outcomes:</i> • Board awareness of two MSCG proposals to be submitted by Beyond the Pond on behalf of the NFHP Board		Gary Whelan and Jason Olive (NFHP Board Staff)

Gary and Jason shared the proposal concept for “NFHP Communications,” which was being prepared for submission under the 2025 Multistate Conservation Grant (MSCG) process, with applications due to AFWA by September 22. The proposal, to be submitted by Beyond the Pond on behalf of the NFHP Board, included funding requests for website and communications support for both NFHP and Beyond the Pond, as well as printing and publishing costs for the 2026 NFHP Action Plan. The budget breakdown included \$10K for the Action Plan, \$16K for the NFHP website, \$4K for the Beyond the Pond website, and \$34K for indirect and administrative costs. Questions were raised about the award range and the lack of a contingency plan if funding was not secured, particularly for the Action Plan. Separately, AFS planned to submit a proposal on behalf of the Science and Data Committee to support the remaining work on the 2025 National Fish Habitat Assessment, with \$228K requested and \$260K already allocated in the FY26 budget. The group acknowledged that AFWA administers sportfish restoration funds annually, prioritizing projects that benefit multiple states.

11:50 AM	LUNCH PROVIDED AT CAMBRIA		
1:00 PM	Local FHP Presentations • Fishers and Farmers Partnership • Driftless Area Restoration Effort	7	<i>FHP Coordinators:</i> Heidi Keuler, Amy Smith Sara Strassman
Local Fish Habitat Partnerships (FHPs) from the Midwest region gave brief presentations highlighting their conservation priorities and regional challenges. The Driftless Area Restoration Effort (DARE) emphasized its role as a focal landscape partnership encompassing 3,600 trout streams and rooted in grassroots collaboration since 2004. DARE showcased its scientific contributions—including an annual symposium, shared conservation priorities, and a rangewide brook trout assessment—alongside its \$1.6 billion economic impact from trout fishing. Restoration efforts such as Fancy Creek relied heavily on NRCS support, and outreach initiatives included youth engagement and the WiseH2O mobile app for water quality monitoring. Over the past three years, DARE secured \$4 million in non-NFHP funds and \$65 million in federal funding over 16 years. The Fishers and Farmers Partnership, founded in 2008, highlighted its active Steering Committee structure, with agricultural and river partners in each state and three co-leads. Their work focused on soil health, landowner engagement, and storytelling, supported by \$2.2 million from NFHP and \$8 million in leveraged funding. They hosted locally tailored workshops and encouraged the Board to place greater emphasis on social engagement in future evaluations.			
1:30 PM	National Aquatic Connectivity Collaborative Integration with NFHP <i>Desired Outcomes:</i>		Jason Olive (NFHP Board Staff) and Todd Ewing (FHP Coordinator)

	• Board awareness on moving National Aquatic Connectivity Collaborative program and staff from SARP to NFHP		
Todd Ewing (virtual) and Jason Olive presented a proposal to transition the barrier inventory and prioritization tool—along with its staff—from being housed under the Southeast Aquatic Resources Partnership (SARP) to the national NFHP framework. This shift was intended to better reflect the tool’s national scope and elevate NFHP’s visibility within the fish passage community. The Barrier Prioritization Inventory, developed by Kat Hoenke and enriched with data from NAACC and UMass Amherst, has evolved into a nationally recognized resource, with 43% of SARP-NFHP projects over the past five years focused on barrier-related work. Kat would join the NFHP Board staff, with funding secured through 2026 and part of 2027. The proposal received support from long-time partner Nat Gillespie at USFS and was positioned as a candidate for agency scientific and technical assistance funding. However, concerns were raised about the need for a backup funding plan should grant support not materialize.			
1:50 PM	Executive Session (if needed)		Chair Tim Schaeffer (NFHP Board)
Board moved into executive session around 2:30 PM and came out of ES around 2:40 PM			
2:20 PM	BREAK		
Stan Allen assumed the role of acting Chair to run the remainder of the Board meeting.			
2:40 PM	Beyond the Pond Update <i>Desired Outcomes:</i> • Board awareness of progress of Beyond the Pond.		Julie Carter (<i>Beyond the Pond Board Chair</i>)
Julie Carter, the new Chair of the Beyond the Pond Board, shared updates on the Board’s ongoing reform efforts. Since meeting in late July, the Board established an Executive Committee, aligned its term structure with the NFHP Board, and began updating bylaws and administrative processes. Therese Thompson has been contracted as program coordinator since early 2025, and the organization’s banking arrangements were revised to begin earning interest. The Board remained			

short two members and planned to schedule listening sessions with FHP coordinators to strengthen engagement. Additional initiatives included creating one-pagers to highlight FHP projects, developing guidance for using Beyond the Pond as a fiscal agent, and improving systems for tracking grants and sponsorships. Jesse was scheduled to join the October 8 FHP call, and a more comprehensive update was anticipated at the January 2026 Board meeting. Julie also expressed appreciation to Ryan for his decade of leadership with Beyond the Pond.

2:50 PM	National Fish Habitat Assessment Update <i>Desired Outcomes:</i> • Board awareness of progress on the national fish habitat assessment	4	Jared Ross & Megan Malish (<i>Michigan State University</i>)

Jared Ross and Megan Malish provided an update on the 2025 National Fish Habitat Assessment, which we can expect a draft by the end of the year. The assessment incorporated a landscape-scale approach and individual species analyses, building on lessons learned from the 2015 version. Notably, the two assessments are not directly comparable due to methodological improvements—such as the inclusion of previously overlooked disturbances and efforts to make outputs more interpretable and actionable. The 2025 assessment drew on data from 84 providers and covered approximately 51,000 stream reaches, with expanded focus on land use, habitat fragmentation, and water quality barriers. It also aimed to identify limiting disturbances that trigger negative threshold responses in fish populations. Looking ahead, future iterations may incorporate stream temperature data, and coverage will expand to include Alaska, Hawaii, and Puerto Rico in the coming year.

3:30 PM	Overview of Procedures for Annual Project Approval and for Considering New FHP Applicants <i>Desired Outcomes:</i> • Board awareness of two draft chapters for the NFHP Procedures Manual.	5	Stan Allen (<i>NFHP Board Vice-Chair</i>)

Stan Allen presented two draft Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) developed for inclusion in the NFHP procedures manual. One SOP detailed the annual fish habitat conservation project evaluation process, while the other outlined the steps for considering the designation of a new Fish Habitat Partnership. Both drafts were included in the Board book for review, with final approval scheduled for the next Board meeting. Board members were encouraged to send comments to Stan and Jason by October 15 to ensure feedback could be incorporated ahead of the vote.

4:00 PM	ADJOURN		

Thank you to everyone who participated in this meeting of the National Fish Habitat Board. Your engagement and contributions continue to drive our collective progress. We look forward to reconvening at our next virtual meeting on November 18th.

National Fish Habitat Board Meeting
Tuesday, November 18, 2025
1:00 PM EDT – 4:00 PM ET

Teams Meeting

Meeting ID: 259 884 598 275

Passcode: Y7fw6uH3

Time (EDT)	Agenda Item	Tab	Lead(s)
1:00 PM	Welcome <i>Desired Outcomes:</i> - Welcome to new Board members Board vote to approve September Board meeting summary Board vote to approve November 18th Board meeting agenda. 2026 Board meeting(s) preview		Tim Schaeffer (NFHP Board Chair)
1:10 PM	Upcoming Board Terms Update <i>Desired Outcomes:</i> Board Awareness of Board Member Terms (Conservation Seat, Sportfishing, Freshwater Recreational Anglers, SEAFWA Seat)		Ryan Roberts (NFHP Board Staff)
1:20 PM	AFWA President's Task Force on NFHP Update <i>Desired Outcomes:</i> Board Awareness of 2026 AFWA's President's Task Force on NFHP		Tim Schaeffer (Board Chair)
1:35 PM	Update on National Fish Habitat Action Plan (3rd Edition) <i>Desired Outcomes:</i> Board awareness of the status of the Action Plan Revision		Action Plan Writing Team Member
1:45 PM	Beyond the Pond Update <i>Desired Outcomes:</i> Board awareness of recent activities for Beyond the Pond		Jesse Trushenski (BTP Board)

2:00 PM	Science and Data Committee <i>Desired Outcomes:</i> • Board awareness of funding for Public RFP Process that integrates with NFHP Data System (West Coast states)	Gary Whelan (NFHP Science & Data Committee Co-Chair)
2:20 PM	Communications Committee <i>Desired Outcomes:</i> • Board awareness of 20th Anniversary Logo.	Jake Slager (Coca-Cola) and Ryan Roberts (NFHP Staff)
2:40 PM	Policy Committee <i>Desired Outcomes:</i> • Board awareness of Five-Year Report to Congress (2021-2025)	Ian Nakayama (TRCP)
2:55 PM	Executive Session (<i>if needed</i>)	Tim Schaeffer (Board Chair)
3:10 PM	Federal Government shutdown impacts <i>Desired Outcomes:</i> (Board understanding of) • NFHP Impacts • FHP Impacts • Partner Impacts	Ryan Roberts (NFHP Staff)
4:00 PM	Adjourn	



NFHP Board Meeting Schedule 2025-2026

Date(s)	Location
November 18, 2025	Virtual
January 28-29, 2026	Table Rock Lake, MO
April 28, 2026	Virtual
July 28-29, 2026	Washington, DC
November 4, 2026	Virtual



AFWA President's Task Force background example document

(Southern Wings Task Force Report 2025)

[Southern Wings Task Force Report 2025 FINAL](#)

Communications Committee Report

Committee members: Jake Slager (Chair), Gene Gilliland, Debbie Hart (FHP Representative), Miles Nolte, John O’Keefe, Pat Rivers, Peter Micciche, Tom McCann (US FWS), Sarah Schumann, Mark Taylor (TU)

Communications Committee Charge: Develops guidelines and oversees consistent, effective communication aligned with the NFHP mission and brand. Maintains brand standards and defines the organization's voice and tone. This committee acts as the organization's voice, and the messages it sends influence the organization's most important asset: its reputation. Perceptions of its reputation affect the organization's ability to attract funding and enhance its influence.

Committee Update:

- Sarah Schumann (NFHP Board) and Mark Taylor (Trout Unlimited Eastern, Director of Communications) joined the Communications Committee in September 2025.
- Committee finalized NFHP Anniversary PSA (below).
- Committee finalized the below virtual celebration NFHP. We will work on securing speakers and finalized content, but please save the date April 27, 2026, from 1:00 PM – 2:30 PM ET.
- The Communications Committee is unveiling the 20th Anniversary logo for NFHP to be used in 2026.
- For Anniversary event purposes, NFHP has \$8,000 to invest in events highlighted during the September Board Meeting (referenced below). This funding can go towards meeting sponsorship and/or travel, as well as any promotional items we would purchase for the Anniversary. The Communications Committee will meet to discuss how best to utilize funds for 2026 events.
- NFHP Logo for 20th Anniversary of NFHP revealed at November 2025 Board meeting.

NFHP PSA:

The NFHP Communications Committee is working to share the below PSA short with influencers and provide a place for them to send a recorded video back for NFHP to use and share to promote the 20th Anniversary of NFHP.

Narration:

"This year marks the 20th Anniversary of the National Fish Habitat Partnership — two decades of restoring rivers, lakes, and coastal waters across America. Thanks to the dedicated partnerships built over the past 20 years, over 1,700 projects have helped protect fish, wildlife, and our way of life."

Narration:

"Healthy fish habitats mean healthy communities. Learn more and get involved at FishHabitat.org."

Virtual Celebration Plan

20th Anniversary of the National Fish Habitat Partnership April 27, 2026 1:00 PM – 2:30 PM ET

Event Overview

- **Format:** 90-minute live virtual event (via Zoom, Teams,)
- **Audience:** NFHP partners, federal & state agencies, NGOs, local community groups, educators, and the general public
- **Theme:** *"20 Years of Protecting, Restoring, and Enhancing Fish Habitat"*

Agenda (90 minutes)

1. Welcome & Opening Remarks (10 min)

- Host/MC introduces NFHP and its 20-year journey
- Montage: *"20 Years of NFHP in Action"* (photos, project highlights, partner quotes)

2. Leadership Remarks (15 min)

- NFHP Board Leadership remarks
- Short reflections on NFHP's impact and collaboration

3. Partner Spotlights (20 min)

- **Three short case studies (5 min each)** featuring Fish Habitat Partnerships across the country
 - Example: River restoration success, community-led habitat project, coastal fisheries enhancement

4. Interactive Celebration (15 min)

- Recognition of **20th Anniversary Champions** (partners/volunteers highlighted)

5. Looking Forward: The Next 20 Years (15 min)

6. Closing and Reflections Celebration (15 min)

- Reflections from the founders of NFHP (scheduled and announced)
- Invitation to:
 - Share stories on social media (#FishHabitat20)
 - Get involved with Fish Habitat Partnerships

Background:

Promotion Strategy

- Announce via NFHP newsletter & website
- Partner organizations share via social media (#FishHabitat20)

Engagement Extras

- **Recognition Awards** for partners involved since NFHP's founding
-

2026 Events for consideration for NFHP 20th Anniversary purposes

In celebration of the 20th Anniversary of NFHP, in which NFHP is viewing as a year-long celebration, staff and the Communications Committee has identified the following events in 2026, as potential events that NFHP can take part in (sponsorship, marketing booth, attendance) to help highlight the 20th Anniversary of NFHP. The Communications Committee will provide an opportunity for FHPs to consider adding other events in the next month.

For Anniversary event purposes, NFHP has \$8,000 to invest in events highlighted during the September Board Meeting (referenced below). This funding can go towards meeting sponsorship and/or travel, as well as any promotional items we would purchase for the Anniversary. The Communications Committee will meet to discuss how best to utilize funds for 2026 events.

March	Bassmaster Classic Conservation Summit
April 17-19	Major League Fishing Redcrest (Table Rock Lake, MO)
April 30- May 3	Major League Fishing Stage 5 (Beaver Lake, AR)
May 11-14	National Outdoor Recreation Conference (MN)
May	Native American Fish and Wildlife Society
May 23	World Fish Migration Day
June	Fishing Event on the National Mall
July	ICAST
August 30-September 3	AFS Annual Conference (OH)
October	ASA Sportfishing Summit
