



# NFHP National Conservation Priorities Workgroup Update and Discussion

**Adam Ringia**

Workgroup Chair

**Joan Drinkwin**

FHP Workgroup Member

**Gary Whelan**

**Daniel Wieferrich**

Board Science and Data Committee Co-chairs

NFHP Board Meeting

April 2022



# Why Discuss?



## ACE Act

- ACE Act Section 203 (e)(1)(C) requires the Board to develop and use NCPs as basis for FHP project implementation
- NCPs are designed to also inform 5-year Congressional report (Section 209 (a)(2)) that must include:
  - Estimate of amount of fish habitat maintained or improved by NFHP
  - Description of public access to fish habitat established or improved
  - Description of improved public recreation fishing
  - Assessment of the status of fish habitat conservation projects



# Workgroup Status



# NCP Workgroup Update

- **Workgroup Members**

- **Board (6)**

- **Adam Ringia (Workgroup Chair)**

- Joe Slaughter, Carter Kruse, Jesse Trushenski, Stan Allen, Gene Gilliland

- **FHP (3+)**

- Joan Drinkwin, Lori Maloney, Jeff Boxrucker

- **SDC (4+)**

- Moe Nelson, Kate Sherman, Daniel Wieferich, Gary Whelan





# NCP Workgroup Update

- Organizing Meeting – March 23
- Gathering Information
  - FHP input request – Joan Drinkwin – April 4
    - Current priorities
      - Add or delete
      - Ranking
      - Rewording needs and metrics
      - Match availability
    - FHP Specific
      - Performance metrics
      - Metric goals and timeframe
      - ACE requirement consideration



# NCP Workgroup Update

- Gathering Information
  - Board Meeting April 26
    - Focus desired
- Schedule
  - May – SDC and FHP input
  - June – Draft NCPs developed and reviewed
  - July – Feedback from FHPs and SDC
  - August – Final draft to Board
  - September – Board approves NCPs



# NCP Options and Considerations





# Board NCP History and Considerations

- Both detailed and high-level NCPs have been developed and implemented by the Board
- Pros, Cons and Factors
  - Measurement
  - FHP inclusion and consistency with FHP priorities and strategic plans
  - Project evaluation both selection and success measurement
  - Data tracking, collection and storage
  - Uncertainty
  - Funding
  - Congressional approval



## 2007 Approved NCP Set - Detailed Example

- Four Strategies – Each with goals and measures
  - Identify and protect intact and health waters
  - Rehabilitate river and stream flows and lake and reservoir water surface elevations that are degraded to approx. natural conditions
  - Reconnect fragmented systems to allow access to complete life histories and increase self-sustaining fish populations
  - Reduce sedimentation and nutrients to within 25% of the expected natural variation



# 2007 Detailed NCP Example

- Strategy 1 – Identify and protect intact and health waters
  - Identify all intact and health waters
  - Protect 1,000 miles of intact and healthy streams
  - Protect 10,000 acres of intact lake habitat
  - Protect 10,000 acres of intact marine habitat
- Strategy 1 - Success Measures
  - Miles of intact and healthy streams
  - Acres of intact lake habitat
  - Acres of intact marine habitat
  - Optional – Key fish species remained constant or increased in distribution or relative abundance



# 2007 Detailed NCP Example

- Strategy 2 – Hydrology
  - Identify key degraded waters that have been modified from the natural flow pattern along with key target species
  - Restore flows to within 10% of natural variation on 200 miles of degraded lotic systems
  - Restore lake and reservoir elevations to within 10% of natural variation on 1000 acres of lentic habitat.
- Strategy 2- Success Measures
  - Miles of lotic and marine habitat rehabilitated
  - Acres of lentic and marine habitat rehabilitated
  - Optional – Key fish species remained constant or increased in distribution or relative abundance





## 2022 Approved NCP set – High Level Example

- Protect intact healthy waters
- Restore hydrologic conditions for fish
- Reconnect fragmented fish habitats
- Restore water quality
- Coordination and operational support for FHPs to make on-the-ground progress within program appropriations





## Other NCP Options

- Use existing set of NCPs with specific measurement metrics
- Use existing set of NCPs with area(s) of emphasis
- Use existing set of NCPs with an addition and system-specific areas of emphasis
  - **Restore and enhance “structural” or “processes that control” fish habitat**
- Use system-specific set of NCPs



# Questions and Board Direction Discussion

Visit [www.fishhabitat.org](http://www.fishhabitat.org)  
for more information

