

NFHP Document of Interdependence

Introduction

The [National Fish Habitat Partnership](#) (NFHP) consists of four distinct components: the National Fish Habitat Board, the (20) individual Fish Habitat Partnerships, the National Fish Habitat Fund (NFHP's official non-profit partner) and the NFHP partners which includes federal, state, and local agencies, tribes, academia, non-governmental organizations, and public and private entities and individuals (including business), who contribute to implementation of the National Fish Habitat Action Plan. While each of these distinct components has the freedom to act independently of one another, the actions of one affects the actions of another. In this way the success of any one of these components is dependent upon the success of the other three – they are in fact -- interdependent. Figure 1 provides a graphic representation of these relationships.

Purpose

This informational document was developed at the request of the FHPs with the purpose of acknowledging the interdependence of the major components that make-up NFHP. It is a non-obligatory, non-official document intended for an internal audience. This document should be used as supplemental material to assist with implementation of official documents such as the [National Fish Habitat Action Plan](#). However, it in no way supersedes official documents such as the [Policies and Guidance for FHPs](#). It describes and clarifies the current roles, responsibilities, and relationships among the major components of the NFHP. The document is intended to reflect current relationships; it does not articulate desired or anticipated roles, responsibilities, or relationships. It is a living document that will be updated when official documents are updated, as appropriate.

Definitions

National Fish Habitat Board –Also referred to as the "Board", is the governing body established to promote, oversee, and coordinate implementation of the [National Fish Habitat Action Plan](#). A list of committees that support the Board can be found in the appendix.

Fish Habitat Partnerships (FHPs) -- National Fish Habitat Board approved groups of state, federal, local, nonprofit, Native American Tribes, private individuals, or entities that coordinate to implement the National Fish Habitat Action Plan. They are self-identified, self-organized, and self-directed communities of interest formed around geographic areas, keystone species, or system types (e.g. rivers, lakes, reservoirs, and marine). Fish habitat conservation projects proposed by many of these FHPs are eligible for funding as NFHP projects through a competitive proposal process. FHPs have governance structures that reflect the range of all partners and promote joint strategic planning and decision-making by the partnership.

Partner -- An individual or entity that engages with the NFHP or a FHP to promote its mission (e.g. Federal, state, and local agencies, Tribes, academia, non-government organizations, and public and private entities and individuals (including business)). Examples of ways to engage include but are not limited to: provision of funding, participation in a project, participation on a committee or working group, etc.

Federal agency -- Department, bureau, service, division, representative, or other component of the Federal Government that has direct or indirect responsibilities for aquatic habitat conservation. The results of effective conservation contribute to the health and social and economic well-being of the American public that they serve.

State agency --The fish and wildlife agency of a State; any department or division of a department or agency of a State that manages in the public trust the inland or marine fishery resources or sustains the habitat for those fishery resources of the State pursuant to State law or the constitution of the State.

Non-Government Organization – A non-profit, tax-exempt entity established under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. NGOs commonly serve as catalysts to bring together projects, funding for projects and partnerships, and advocate for the legislation and administrative policies which help Partnerships.

Beyond the Pond (also referred to as “the National Fish Habitat Fund” or “the Fund”) – a tax exempt organization under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code that was created to support the mission and goals of the NFHP.

Conservation action – Activities that protect, sustain, and, where appropriate, restore, and enhance populations of fish, wildlife, or plant life or habitat required to sustain fish, wildlife, or plant life or its productivity. Common examples include stream, lake, reservoir, and riparian restoration projects.

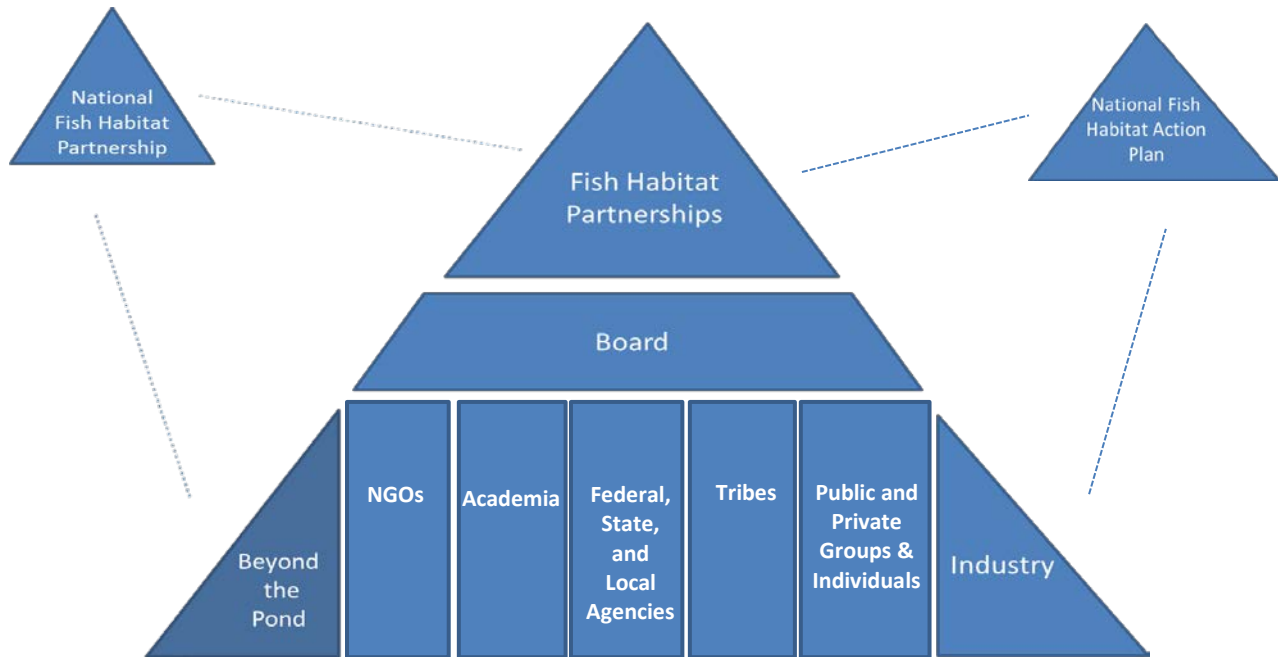


Figure 1. NFHP is made up of several different components (i.e. partners) that collectively form a solid foundation supporting the FHPs. Therefore, each component (i.e. partner) has an important role in supporting and facilitating implementation of the Action Plan.

Commitments

1 Habitat Assessments

1.1 National Fish Habitat Board

- The Board shall solicit information from the Science and Data Committee and incorporate that information, and other appropriate information, into the strategies and goals developed by the Board.
- The Board will support the Science and Data Team by providing necessary staff, funding, data and other resources needed to complete the national assessments and reports called for in the Plan.

1.2 Fish Habitat Partnerships

- Develop appropriate local or regional habitat evaluation and assessment measures and criteria that are compatible with national habitat condition measures.

- Coordinate and compile scientific assessment information on fish habitats within their partnership areas to help determine and monitor the FHP's conservation goals and objectives.
- Provide this scientific assessment information to the national Science and Data Committee to support national assessments of fish habitats.

1.3 Federal Agency¹

- Collect, manage, analyze and share data and contribute information technology expertise to build or integrate databases to assess aquatic communities, habitat conditions and outcomes of projects.
- Coordinate and contribute technical assistance, services or funds for the science and data initiatives of the National Fish Habitat Board.

1.4 State Agency (as resources allow)

- Participate in FHP Science Teams and the NFHP Science and Data Committee to contribute technical expertise and assistance in the design, review, and application (e.g., priority setting) of regional and national fish habitat assessments.
- Share state-based survey and monitoring datasets with the relevant FHP Science Teams and NFHP Science and Data Committee to inform regional and national habitat assessments.
- Provide to FHPs, upon request, relevant state species management or conservation plans in which habitat limitations and/or priority conservation actions are identified.
- Review habitat assessment documents and any proposed restoration priorities/projects to ensure consistency with established agency objectives.

1.5 Non-Government Organization

- Assist in the review of habitat assessment data and provide constructive input to the process. Where beneficial, an NGO may also provide additional externally collected and reviewed scientific habitat data for consideration for inclusion.

1.6 Beyond the Pond

- Raise outside funding from corporations, individuals, and foundations to supplement Fish Habitat Partnership and National Fish Habitat Board projects and priorities.

2 Communications and Outreach

2.1 National Fish Habitat Board

- Communicate with the Fish Habitat Partnerships regarding all policies and decisions made by the Board.
- Where appropriate and when possible, the Board should utilize its network to communicate potential opportunities for advancement of national (NFHP) and FHP objectives to the FHPs so that the FHPs can take advantage of these opportunities.

¹ Each of the component agencies, bureaus, and offices of the Departments [Interior, Agriculture, and Commerce] with direct or indirect responsibilities for aquatic habitat conservation, protection and restoration, shall as appropriate, to the extent permitted by law and subject to the availability of appropriations, and in accordance with their respective agency missions, policies, and regulations:

2.2 Fish Habitat Partnerships

- Engage local and regional communities to build support for fish habitat conservation.
- Involve diverse groups of public and private partners.
- Develop regular newsletters, project overviews, and social media messaging including websites and e-news clips.

2.3 Federal Agency¹

- Contribute to the development of informational materials for stakeholders and the general public to raise awareness of the values of aquatic habitat and the Action Plan.
- Federal agencies will do their part to promote NFHP within own agency with news articles, presentations, webinars, awards, and promoting more collaboration or funding opportunities.
- Communicate across programs within own agency and to other related federal agencies.
- Communicate with the Federal Caucus.

2.4 State Agency (as resources allow)

- Contribute to the development of informational materials for stakeholders and the general public to raise awareness of the values of aquatic habitat.
- Promote the contributions of NFHP and the FHPs in supporting aquatic habitat conservation in their respective states.
- Advocate locally for NFHP and recruit grassroots partners to contribute to implementation of the Action Plan (e.g., recruit and foster grassroots partners).
- Promote public awareness of habitat limitations, enhancement opportunities, or completed restoration projects through a variety of media and social media outlets; not necessarily tied to NFHP-related funding, but consistent with NFHP and FHP messaging.

2.5 Non-Government Organization

- Provide outreach, education and engagement opportunities to local communities
- Increase overall public knowledge and awareness regarding the role of the NFHP as related to resource protection and enhancement.

2.6 Beyond the Pond

- Provide a platform for promoting Fish Habitat Partnership conservation success stories and act as a resource for potential donors.

3 Coordination

3.1 National Fish Habitat Board

- Coordinate agency and stakeholder involvement at the national level
- Establish national partnerships that provide funding and other resources to the Partnerships and other efforts of the Plan.
- Coordinate with the broadest possible range of stakeholders and other interested parties, through its Partners Coalition, to increase involvement and support for coordinated fish habitat conservation at national and regional scales.

- Coordinate with the broadest possible range of Federal agencies through the Federal Caucus, a partnership of Federal agencies organized to coordinate Federal participation in the implementation of the Action Plan, and make every attempt to expand the Federal Caucus to include all Federal agencies involved with fish habitat.

3.2 Fish Habitat Partnerships

- Seek and encourage involvement by State fish and wildlife agencies, Native American governments and federal agencies that manage fish resources within their partnership areas, non-government organizations and businesses, and document these efforts. Commitment may be demonstrated through endorsement by regional Associations of Fish and Wildlife Agencies or similar entities, memoranda of understanding among jurisdictions, letters of support from agency directors, or other written evidence.
- As members of the grassroots NFHP, FHPs should generally be present at Board meetings (in person or on the phone) and participate in discussions where appropriate.
- Work with other regional habitat conservation efforts to promote cooperation and coordination to enhance fish and fish habitats.
- Collaborate with FHPs Landscape Conservation Cooperatives, and other large landscape-scale collaborations where appropriate to carry out responsibilities.

3.3 Federal Agency

- The Board shall include up to five federal agency representatives. These shall include the Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; the Chief, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service; and the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, who shall serve by virtue of their office
- Promote collaborative, science-based conservation by ensuring that the component agencies, bureaus, and offices of Federal agencies with direct or indirect responsibilities for aquatic habitat conservation, protection, and restoration, support efforts to implement the National Fish Habitat Action Plan in accordance with their respective agency missions, policies, and regulations and subject to the availability of funds.
- Ensure their actions, to the extent permitted by law and subject to the availability of appropriations, and in accordance with their respective agency missions, policies, and regulations, are consistent with and support the priorities of the Action Plan. In so doing, the Departments can improve the efficiency of Federal Government organizations and ensure effective coordination with state, tribal, and local agencies, non-government organizations, businesses, and individuals. Participate as members of the Federal Caucus at policy and technical levels to coordinate Federal participation in implementation of the Action Plan in support of state agency-led efforts to achieve the goals of the Action Plan.
- Coordinate activities in support of the Action Plan with other interagency efforts, including but not limited to America's Great Outdoors, Landscape Conservation Cooperatives, the Aquatic Nuisance Species Task Force, the Coral Reef Task Force, the National Action Plan for Freshwater Resources, the National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan, and the National Fish, Wildlife and Plants Climate Adaptation Strategy.¹

- Coordinate its activities with states, territories, tribes, and local governments to meet the goals of the Action Plan.¹
- Encourage and support affiliated efforts by non-Federal partners to implement the Action Plan, including fulfillment of the Federal trust responsibilities to Native American governments.¹

3.4 State Agency (as resources allow)

- Communicate relevant state agency objectives, management plans, and habitat enhancement priorities to FHPs.
- Where compatible with state agency objectives and resources, participate in FHP steering committees, science teams, and other working groups.
- Coordinate with the FHPs and partners on the planning, progress, and outcomes of NFHP-supported projects in their respective states.
- Coordinate with FHPs on state-supported fish habitat restoration, enhancement, and protection projects that contribute to implementation of the Action Plan (NOTE: many states are heavily engaged in fish habitat conservation efforts not directly supported by NFHP, but that contribute to the goals and objectives of the Action Plan).

3.5 Non-Government Organization

- Non-profit land and aquatic resource conservation organizations are appointed to the Board to ensure a balance of governmental and non-governmental organizations, and a balance of freshwater and marine interests. Non-profit conservation organizations support and compliment the interests and direction of the Board through on-the-ground organizing and partnerships, and in some cases through actions the Board and governmental organizations may not undertake.
- Build support with other partners with an interest in a particular project.

3.6 Beyond the Pond

- Coordinate fundraising support with the National Fish Habitat Board and with the FHP. Fundraising support with the National Fish Habitat Board is coordinated through two primary avenues: one, a representative of the Board of Directors for Beyond the Pond provides regular reports to the National Fish Habitat Board, and two, through overlapping membership of the two Boards (they must share three members).
- Coordinate fundraising support to the FHPs through a chapter relationship defined in the Notice of Responsibility and Expectations of Chapters of the National Fish Habitat Fund. Generally, Beyond the Pond pursues high-level donors and the FHPs pursue local-level donors. Communication between FHPs and with Beyond the Pond regarding these efforts is encouraged.

4 Strategic Planning

4.1 National Fish Habitat Board

- Develop and amend, as appropriate, specific national fish habitat conservation goals and objectives with the advice from the Science and Data Committee.

- The Board shall coordinate with the Federal agencies to develop and implement habitat protection and rehabilitation strategies at national and regional scales, to ensure that Federal agency policies are consistent with the Plan, and to otherwise support implementation of the Plan.

4.2 Fish Habitat Partnerships

- Develop collaboratively with regional stakeholders a strategic vision and achievable strategic or implementation plan that is scientifically sound.
- Establish strategic goals and objectives that define desired outcomes for fish species and habitats within their partnership areas.
- Identify priority places and/or issues to focus conservation action, and prioritize fish habitat conservation projects to meet goals and objectives.

4.3 Federal Agency¹

- Review policies, procedures, resources, capabilities and, where appropriate, make revisions during regularly scheduled reviews of the same, to further support of NFHP goals.
- Incorporate the goals of NFHP in its own plans for managing Federal lands and water resources, where appropriate, during regularly scheduled reviews of such plans.

4.4 State Agency

- Actively contribute to the development of relevant FHP strategic plans to ensure consistency with established state agency objectives and policies, as resources allow.

4.5 Non-Government Organization

- Identify areas of mutual interest in the strategic plan and work to build and enhance the established goals of the plan through their individual operating strategies.
- Evaluate strategic alignment with individual FHPs to collaborate on implementation of regional goals where feasible.

4.6 Beyond the Pond

- Has developed Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws as well as seated a Board of Directors and named officers of the Fund.
- Fundraise to support the strategic efforts of the National Fish Habitat Board and the FHPs.

5 Funding

5.1 National Fish Habitat Board

- Establish national partnerships or other arrangements that provide funding and other resources to the FHPs and other efforts of the Plan.
- The Board will develop and implement strategies to increase public and private funding for fish habitat conservation by the FHPs, provided that the responsibility for implementation of such strategies by any Board member shall be limited by any legal or administrative restrictions that may apply to the activities of any such member.
- Develop processes to prioritize and deliver NFHP funds to the FHPs, where appropriate.

5.2 Fish Habitat Partnerships

- Leverage funding from sources that support local and regional partnerships.
- Assist Beyond the Pond in their high-level fundraising efforts by providing fundraising case studies, proposals, and other guidance to facilitate success.

5.3 Federal Agency¹

- Contribute materials, technical assistance, services, or appropriated federal funds to projects that support the goals of the Action Plan and FHPs established under the Plan.
- Consider the goals of the Action Plan when awarding loans, grants, contracts, and cooperative agreements, consistent with federal law and respective agency processes.
- Communicate with similar programs within own agency and other federal agencies to leverage funds.

5.4 State Agency

- Contribute materials, technical assistance, services, or matching funds to projects that support the goals of the Action Plan and FHPs established under the Plan, as resources allow.

5.5 Non-Government Organization

- Acquire funding from private or government agency sources to leverage funds provided by the Board to FHPs, resulting in larger scale projects providing a greater resource impact.

5.6 Beyond the Pond

- Support charitable, educational, and scientific purposes related to the conservation, protection, and restoration of fish and aquatic habitats in the United States through the NFHP by providing fundraising and fiscal services to the National Fish Habitat Board and FHP chapters recognized by Beyond the Pond.
- Support the NFHP by providing fundraising tools for the National Fish Habitat Board and FHP chapters such as training, online donation capabilities, or other opportunities.
- In all activities and respects, Beyond the Pond will advance the NFHP and the FHPs. In no manner may the funds raised by Beyond the Pond be used to support any organization that is not a member of the NFHP or a FHP approved by the National Fish Habitat Board.

6 Reporting

6.1 National Fish Habitat Board

- Develop and implement a strategy (including funding) to support development of a “Status of Fish Habitats in the United States” report to Congress, States, and other partners on the status and accomplishments of the NFHP Board. The Board’s Science and Data Committee completed 2010 and 2015 reports and future reports are anticipated on a periodic basis.

6.2 Fish Habitat Partnerships

- Coordinate and compile information on outputs (conservation activities) and outcomes (changes in habitat condition) for reporting to the Board and stakeholders.

6.3 Federal Agency

- Communicate NFHP implementation and outcomes with other programs within the respective agency and externally with other partners..
- Report to the Federal Caucus on issues NFHP/FHPs are facing.

6.4 State Agency

- Provide input to project-specific reports and implementation of a NFHP-funded project where appropriate.

6.5 Non-Government Organization

- Assist in the distribution of report information to other parties and organizations for educational and potential funding purposes.
- Use the report as a reference for discussion with elected officials as evidence of the value realized from public funding for water resources.

6.6 Beyond the Pond

- Provide an Annual Report of Activities to the National Fish Habitat Board and FHPs.
- Board of Directors ensures that Beyond the Pond stays in compliance with Federal laws.

7 Recognition and Development of FHPs

7.1 National Fish Habitat Board

- Develop appropriate policies and guidance for recognizing FHPs.
- Develop and amend, as appropriate, criteria for recognition of FHPs. The Board shall distribute the criteria, establish a process for parties to use in seeking recognition as a FHP, and maintain a publicly accessible registry of recognized FHPs. Such criteria shall include provisions to promote transparency and the highest standards of ethical conduct in the decision-making of the Board regarding recognition of FHPs.
- Develop and amend, as appropriate, a strategy to encourage the formation of FHPs. This strategy will be updated periodically to include new information on fish habitat status and the status of existing FHPs.
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7.2 State Agency

- Those state agencies within the scope of a proposed (new) FHP will provide feedback to the Board (upon request) regarding the need, expected benefits, and tradeoffs of establishing a new FHP.
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8 Evaluating Performance

8.1 National Fish Habitat Board

- Establish national measures of success and evaluation criteria guidelines for FHPs and facilitate Fish Habitat Partnership adaptation of these guidelines for their unique systems.
- The Board has responsibility to oversee and coordinate implementation of the Action Plan through the FHPs.
 - The Board will monitor the performance and needs of FHPs nationwide, and will update this Guidance as needed to address changing conditions.
 - Monitoring by the Board is intended to be supportive, not burdensome, to FHP operations, participation, and innovation.
 - Recognized FHPs will be re-evaluated by the Board, at an interval of every three years, to confirm that they continue to meet the criteria in this guidance.

8.2 Fish Habitat Partnerships

- Use adaptive management principles, including evaluation of project success and functionality.

8.3 Federal Agency

- Agencies will be informed about how FHPs perform in project completion and functionality by the NFHP Board.

8.4 State Agency

- Upon request, provide feedback to the Board on the performance, effectiveness, and communication of FHPs.

8.5 Non-Government Organization

- Participate by providing input to the evaluation process and the Action Plan. Assist in the re-evaluation process and work with individual FHPs as requested.

8.6 Beyond the Pond

- Periodic evaluation reporting for Beyond the Pond will be determined and set by the Board of Directors for Beyond the Pond in coordination with the National Fish Habitat Partnership.
- Beyond the Pond is also required to provide reporting to the IRS and is subject to independent audits.

9 Project Implementation

9.1 National Fish Habitat Board

- Carry out such administrative, organizational, or procedural matters as are necessary or proper.

9.2 Fish Habitat Partnerships

- Guide, facilitate, support, or implement local and regional priority projects that improve conditions for fish and fish habitat.

- Provide leadership that develops projects at regional and local levels
- Work with other regional habitat conservation programs to promote cooperation and coordination and improve results
- Engage key audiences and the general public to build support for fish habitat conservation
- Involve diverse groups of public and private partners
- Collaboratively develop a compelling strategic vision and achievable implementation plan that is scientifically sound
- Leverage funding from sources that support local and regional partnerships
- Use adaptive management principles including evaluation of project success and functionality
- Develop appropriate regional habitat evaluation measures and criteria that are compatible with national measures

9.3 Federal Agency¹

- Consider the goals of the Action Plan when issuing permits to states or private entities when such permits may influence aquatic habitat.
- May help with implementation: project oversight, permitting, project design, data management, contracting, monitoring and other technical assistance.

9.4 State Agency

- In concert with other partners, work to develop or support the development and implementation of projects selected for funding as resources allow.

9.5 Non-Government Organization

- The non-profit organizations, both directly and indirectly, work to develop, or support the development of projects selected and funded by the Board.

9.6 Beyond the Pond

- Ensure that any grants or projects implemented through Beyond the Pond remain in accordance with Partnership priorities.

10 Legislation

10.1 National Fish Habitat Board

- Non-Federal members of the Board may educate or inform legislative process
- Non-Federal members provide support to the Legislative Team.

10.2 Fish Habitat Partnerships

- Non-Federal members may educate or inform legislative process.

10.3 Federal Agency

- Works with Federal Caucus, and other partners, but does not lobby.

10.4 State Agency

- Within the scope of existing policies and as resources allow, work through state agency associations (AFWA, WAFWA) to develop or provide comment to the Board on proposed legislation to advance NFHP goals.

10.5 Non-Government Organization

- The Board, and governmental organization members, are significantly restricted in their ability to attempt to directly influence lawmakers or pending legislation that may be of vital interest. Non-profit organizations fill an important and necessary niche within the Board through their legally protected ability to more actively engage elected representatives regarding issues of interest, and to directly participate and influence legislative acts. These activities may occur at the national, state, or local levels.
- Non-profit organizations also have the opportunity in many cases to organize and mobilize grassroots support for issues of importance through guidance and training for actions such as writing letters, and contacting their elected officials to schedule a meeting to discuss a specific topic.

10.6 Beyond the Pond

- Incorporated as a 501(c)3, Beyond the Pond is not active in legislation efforts of the NFHP.

Source Material

- Articles of Incorporation of the National Fish Habitat Fund, Inc., May 27, 2014.
- Bylaws of the National Fish Habitat Fund, Inc.
- [Charter of the National Fish Habitat Board](#). Adopted by the National Fish Habitat Board on September 22, 2006. Revised April 19, 2007, and October 13, 2010.
- Draft language from National Fish Habitat Conservation Through Partnerships Act. Specifically, S. 659 –Crapo Amendment #1. Dated January 19, 2016.
- [Evaluating Fish Habitat Partnership Performance](#). Approved by the National Fish Habitat Board, January 14, 2015.
- Member Guide For the National Fish Habitat Board, 2017.
- Memorandum of Understanding Between the US Departments of Interior, Agriculture, and Commerce for Implementing the National Fish Habitat Action Plan. Effective March 27, 2012 – March 27, 2017.
- [National Fish Habitat Action Plan, 2nd Edition](#). Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, Washington, DC. 40 pp. 2012.
- Notice of Responsibility and Expectations of Chapters of the National Fish Habitat Fund
- [Policies and Guidance for Fish Habitat Partnerships](#). Approved by the National Fish Habitat Board, October 8, 2008.
- State of Beyond the Pond – 501(c)3 Non-Profit Organization to benefit the National Fish Habitat Partnership

Appendix – National Fish Habitat Board Committees

Four standing committees operate under the Board’s purview. These committees accomplish specific tasks undertaken by the Board and report back to the Board as necessary.

Science & Data Committee

The Science and Data Committee’s purpose is to provide scientific and data management expertise and oversight to advance the goals and objectives of the National Fish Habitat Board (Board) in a scientifically sound and strategic manner.

Duties and roles of the Committee’s co-chairs and members include:

- Provide advice to the Board on setting future science and data priorities.
- Develop strategies for executing and implementing Board science and data priorities by ensuring the direction, purpose, and needs for future national assessments are well-defined.
- Oversee, coordinate, and review the development of the national fish habitat assessment including, but not limited to, assisting the assessment teams with relevant contacts, data acquisition, and expertise as needed.
- Provide expert advice and support on habitat and data issues to the Board, National Assessment Teams, and Fish Habitat Partnerships to ensure scientific data conformity and coordination between FHPs, partner agencies, and the Science and Data Committee.

Communications Committee

The Communications Committee’s role is to support the partnership by sustaining critical communications needs and initiatives. The Communications Committee plays an essential role in crafting the messages that raise awareness about the partnership and help build a community of support for fish habitat conservation.

Partnerships Committee

The Partnerships Committee serves as a forum for preliminary discussions, fact-finding, and formulating recommendations for Board actions that affect Fish Habitat Partnerships.

Budget and Finance Committee

This committee works with and supports the Board in fiscal matters affecting the function of the National Fish Habitat Partnership, including the Board and Fish Habitat Partnerships. The committee reports to the Board with recommendations for Board actions related to budgets, funding priorities, fiscal needs, and strategies to expand funding for Board functions and FHP projects and programs.

In addition to standing committees, the Board appoints ad hoc committees to address specific needs. As of July 2015, the following committees are active:

- *10-Year Anniversary Steering Committee*, created to help look for opportunities to promote and identify resources to celebrate the 10-Year Anniversary of the National Fish Habitat Partnership (April 24, 2016). The Steering Committee developed a

communications strategy that includes events where the National Fish Habitat Partnership could be recognized beginning in 2016 and through April 2017.

- *Marketing Team*, charged with leading the creation of an educational and outreach campaign to raise awareness of the critically important aquatic habitat conservation work being implemented through the National Fish Habitat Partnership. This group also helped to form marketing guidance and principals for Beyond the Pond and communications and marketing efforts to connect the National Fish Habitat Partnership and Beyond the Pond.
- *Legislative Team*, made-up of a coalition of non-Federal members of the National Fish Habitat Partnership, this team seeks the passage of National Fish Habitat Conservation legislation, which will codify and strengthen the National Fish Habitat Partnership. Versions of the National Fish Habitat Conservation legislation have been introduced in the previous four sessions of Congress.