

The logo features a blue stylized fish icon on the left, with the word "NATIONAL" in a smaller blue font above the word "FISH". To the right of "FISH" is the word "HABITAT" in a large, bold blue font, and below it is the word "PARTNERSHIP" in a medium blue font. The entire logo is set against a light beige background with a faint image of a river and trees.

NATIONAL FISH HABITAT PARTNERSHIP

Ryan Roberts
National Fish Habitat Partnership Program Manager
AFWA

NEAFWA Meeting
April 20 25

FISHHABITAT.ORG



WHAT IS NFHP?

A state-led Initiative modeled after the North American Waterfowl Management Plan that brings together agencies, Tribes, NGO's and the private sector to leverage investments in fish habitat conservation projects

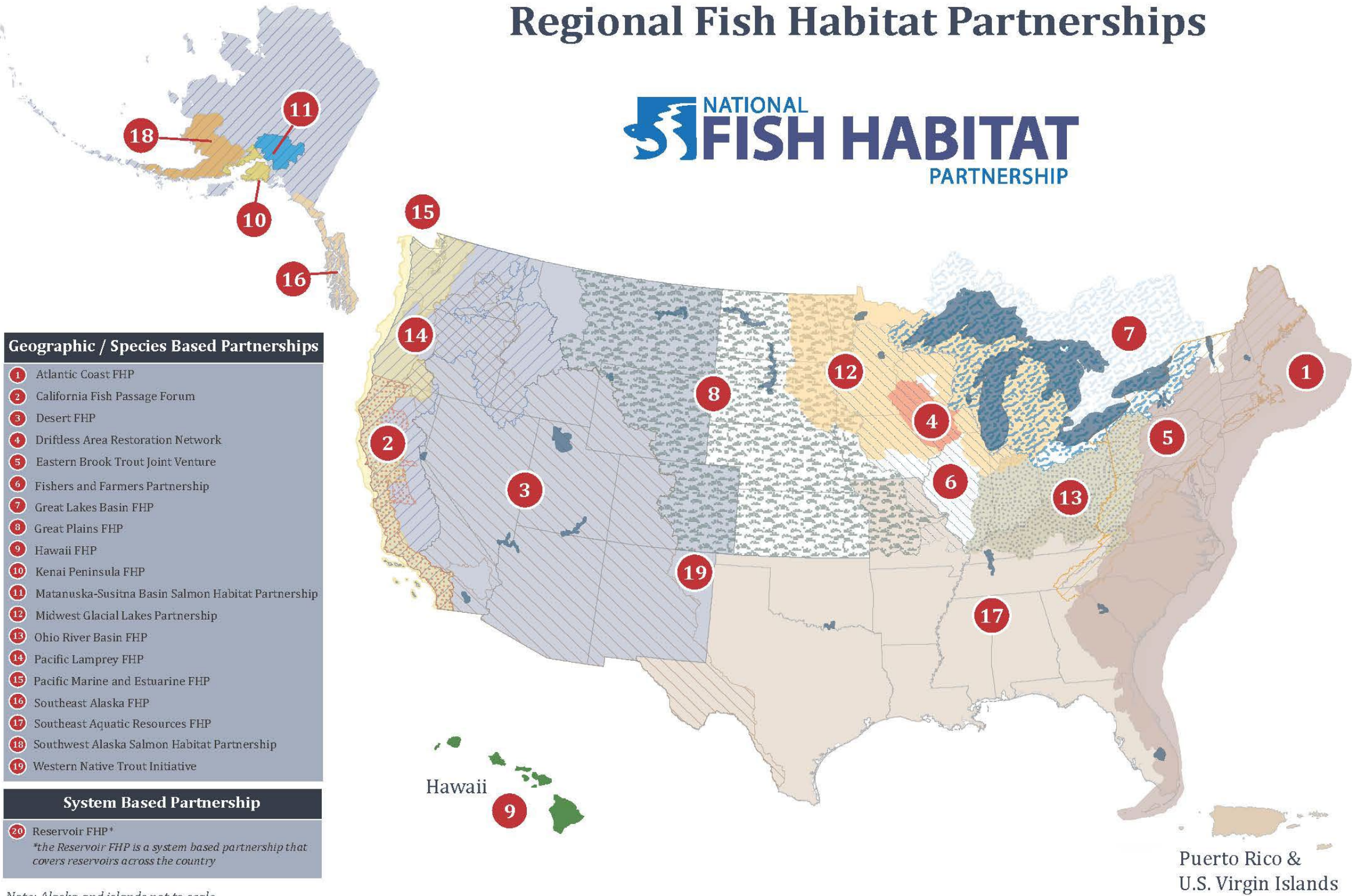
- Consisting of regional Fish Habitat Partnerships analogous to Migratory Bird Joint Ventures

A photograph showing two individuals in a grassy field. On the left, a person wears a dark green jacket with 'WATER ALLIANCE' printed on it. On the right, a person in a grey shirt holds a blue folder. They are both looking at a large map spread out on the ground. The map features a legend, a pie chart, and various geographical labels. The title 'National Fish Habitat Board' is overlaid in white text on the upper portion of the image.

National Fish Habitat Board

- AFWA Appoints Chair
 - Regional AFWAs
 - Five federal agencies
 - Two Tribal
- Marine Fisheries Commissions/Councils
 - Corporate Industry
- Recreational Fishing and Conservation NGO's

Regional Fish Habitat Partnerships



Note: Alaska and islands not to scale
Includes current fish habitat partnerships, approved by the NFHP Board, June 2016.

A BRIEF HISTORY...

The Sportfishing and Boating Partnership Council (SFBPC) noted in the early 2000's that, despite significant investments in aquatic habitat work, the quantity and quality of habitat continued to decline.



A BRIEF HISTORY....

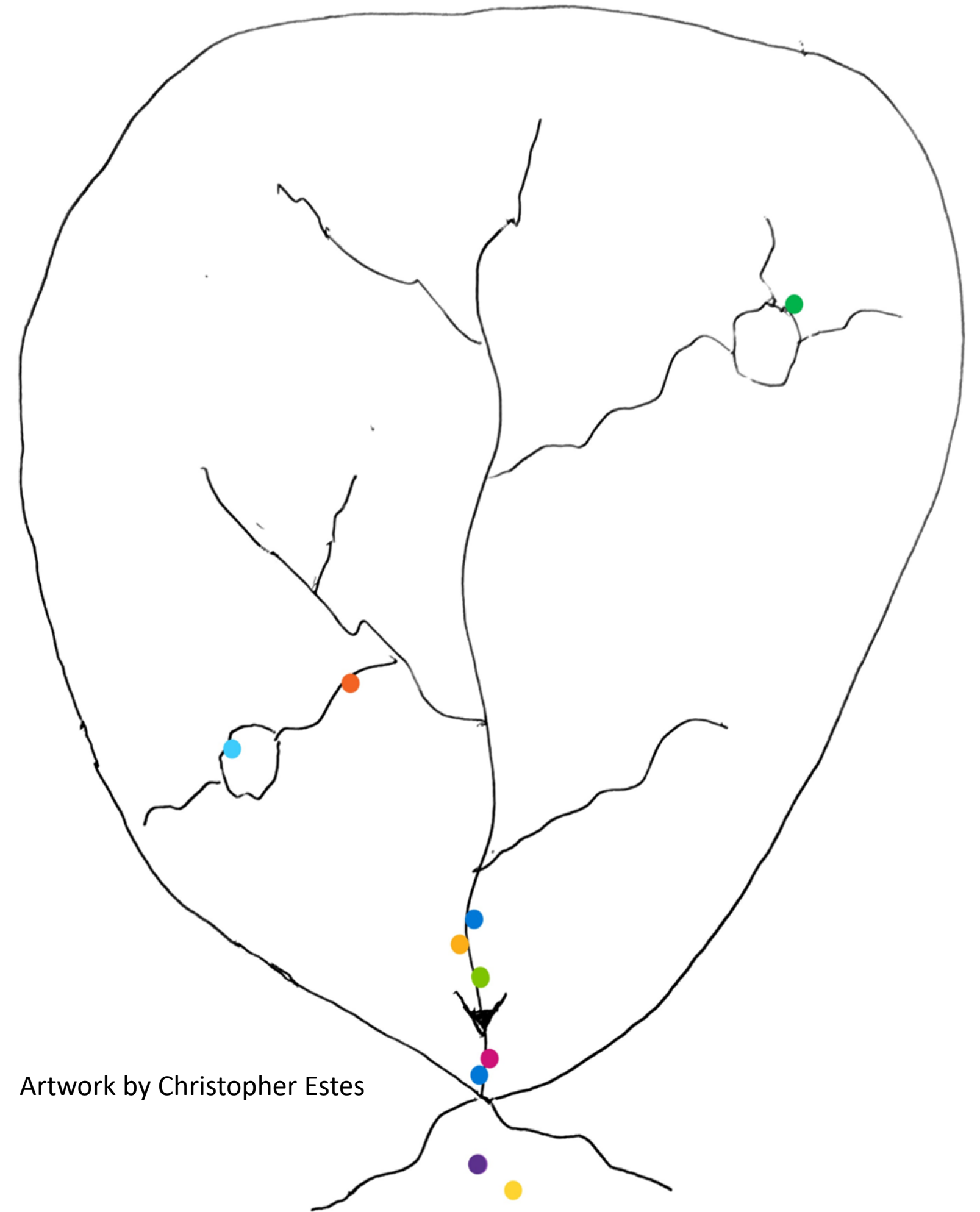
In 2001, the SFBPC held stakeholder meetings across the U.S.

They identified silos among those working on aquatic habitat conservation as the key reason for the lack of progress





RESULTS: redundancies, cost inefficiencies,
& limited beneficial habitat data & science-based
conservation outcomes at landscape scales.



Artwork by Christopher Estes

National Fish Habitat *Action Plan*



April 24, 2006

The United States is blessed with a remarkable abundance and diversity of waterways and fisheries. Their health is vital to our well-being as individuals and as a nation. Unfortunately, our collective efforts to conserve aquatic habitats have not kept pace with their decline. Without prompt and effective conservation action, our waters will continue to suffer, as will the opportunities they provide.


Galvanized into action by the threat of aquatic habitat losses, an unprecedented coalition of anglers, conservation groups, scientists, state and federal agencies and industry leaders forged the National Fish Habitat Action Plan. The plan's principal aim is to better protect, restore and enhance fish habitat through partnerships that foster conservation and improve the quality of life for the American people.

The plan encompasses all of the nation's waters that provide fish habitat. It is science-based, voluntary and non-regulatory and offers a carefully wrought nationwide strategy to harness the energies, expertise and existing partnerships of state and federal agencies, conservation organizations, foundations and others. It recognizes that in aquatic systems across the country, fisheries professionals and their partners propose to build on these and other model efforts through a network of Fish Habitat Partnerships to focus energy, skill and dollars on key fish habitats as never before.

The plan is a rallying point for a wide range of fish and aquatic habitat interest groups. It contains extensive input from numerous partners and stakeholders. It is endorsed by state fish and wildlife agency leaders, and 19 federal agencies have formed a caucus to better coordinate their activities in support of the plan. With its strong base of support, its focus on the use of existing and emerging science, and its emphasis on the importance of partnerships, the plan presents a historic opportunity to launch a new era in fisheries conservation.

We enthusiastically endorse the National Fish Habitat Action Plan and commit to playing an active role in its implementation.


Acting Secretary, Department of the Interior


President, Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies


























































































Secretary, Department of Commerce


Executive Vice President, Association of
Fish and Wildlife Agencies

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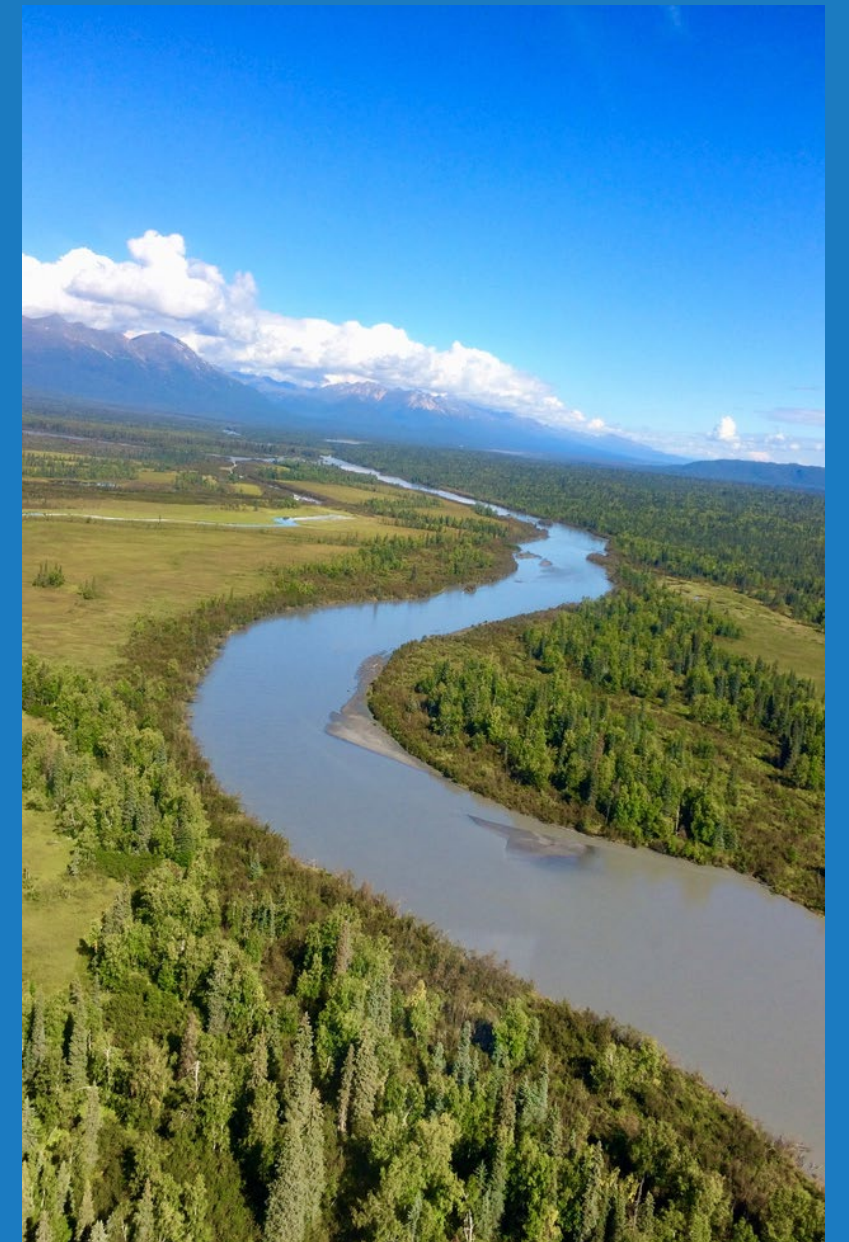
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Strategies and Resources Contributed by Federal Agencies to the National Fish Habitat Partnership

2012 Federal Caucus member agencies	Leadership	Funding	Data sharing / database development	Education	Recruiting partners	Monitoring/ evaluation	Strategic planning	Technical expertise	Projects on federal lands
Department of Commerce									
NOAA Fisheries Service									
National Ocean Service									
Department of the Interior									
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service									
U.S. Geological Survey									
Bureau of Land Management									
Office of Surface Mining									
National Park Service									
Bureau of Reclamation									
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management									
Department of Agriculture									
Forest Service									
Natural Resources Conservation Service									
Farm Service Agency									
Environmental Protection Agency									
Department of Defense (DoD)									
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers									
DoD Natural Resources Program									
Department of Transportation									
Federal Highway Administration									
Department of Homeland Security									
Federal Emergency Management Agency									

2006–2020

- UPDATED ACTION PLAN IN 2012
- MOU AMONG INTERIOR, COMMERCE, AND AGRICULTURE**
- 20 FISH HABITAT PARTNERSHIPS BY 2020
- TWO NATIONAL ASSESSMENTS COMPLETED



AMERICA'S CONSERVATION ENHANCEMENT (ACE) ACT OF 2020

No change in
mission, vision,
or key
elements of
the program

NFH Board now
has full
authority for
the program

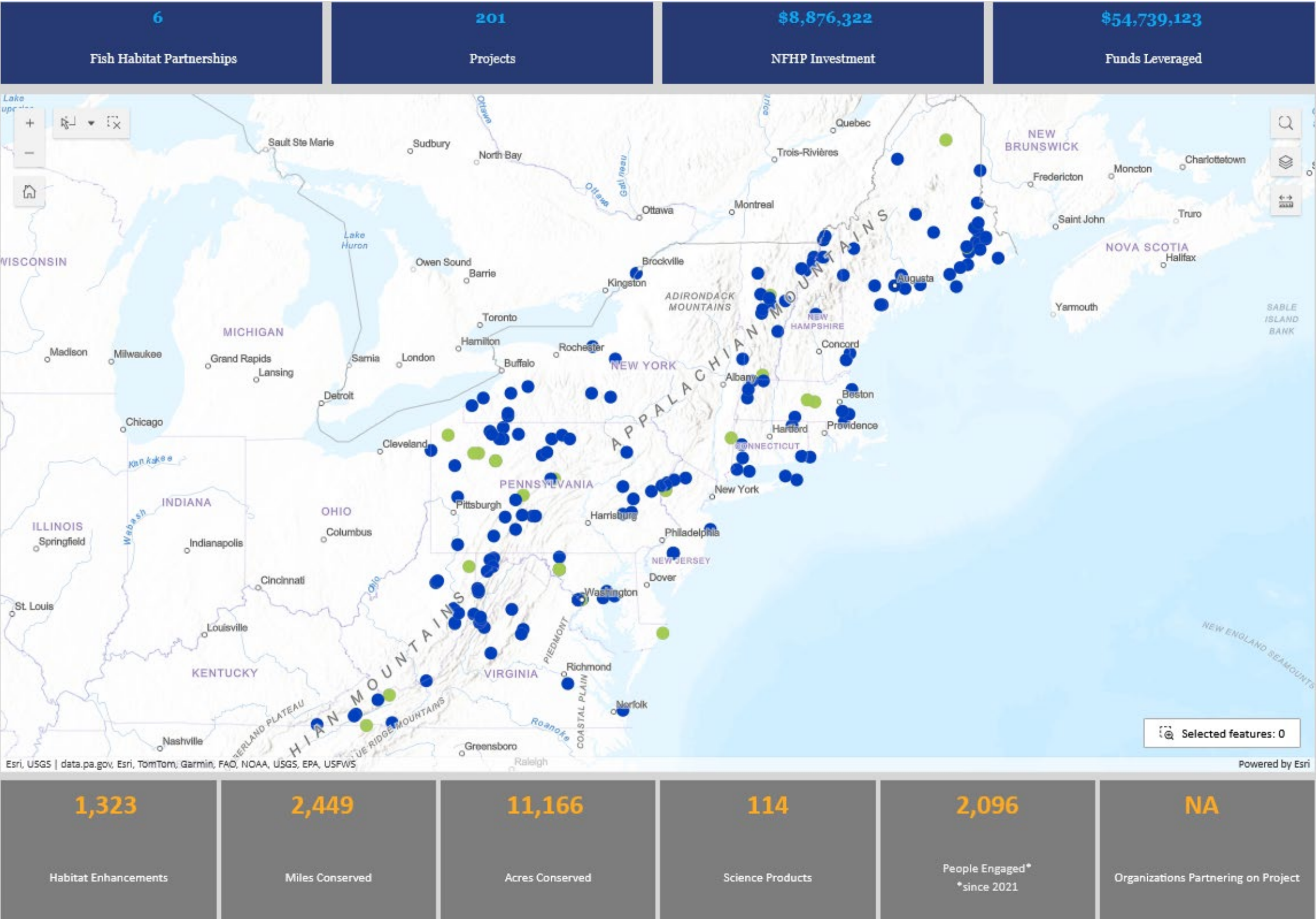
1:1 non-federal
match required
for all projects

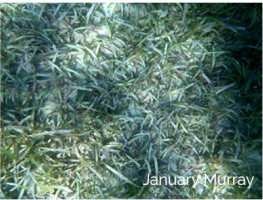
MEANS OF FHP COORDINATION

FHP MEETINGS
AND
SYMPOSIA

STAKEHOLDER
OUTREACH
AND
ASSISTANCE

SCIENCE AND
DATA
PRODUCTS





Dredging, Sedimentation, and Coastal Maintenance and Development

Our Partners' Work

[ASMFC's Harbor Deepening: Potential habitat and natural resources issues](#)

[ASMFC's Beach Nourishment: A review of the biological and physical impacts](#)

[ASMFC's Offshore Wind in My Backyard?](#)



Submerged Aquatic Vegetation

ACFHP's Work

[Conservation Moorings poster](#)

[Conservation Moorings Display in Jamestown](#)

Our Partners' Work

[ASMFC's Submerged Aquatic Vegetation Policy: A review of past accomplishments and emerging research and management issues](#)

[United Nations Environment Programme's Out of the Blue: The Value of Seagrasses to the Environment and to People](#)

[The Pew Charitable Trusts' SAV Annotated Bibliography](#)



Shellfish Habitat

Our Partners' Work

[ASMFC's The Importance of Habitat Created by Molluscan Shellfish to Managed Species along the Atlantic Coast of the United States](#)

[TNC's Restoration Guidelines for Shellfish Reefs](#)

[NOAA's value of oyster reefs infographic](#)

[The Pew Charitable Trusts' Shellfish Habitat Annotated Bibliography](#)



Tidal Vegetation

Our Partners' Work

[ASMFC's Living Shorelines: Impacts of erosion control strategies on coastal habitats](#)

[ICWWG's Recommendations for Reducing Wetland Loss in Coastal Watersheds of the United States](#)



WHAT DO BROOK TROUT NEED TO SURVIVE?

- Cold water, less than 68° F
 - Highly oxygenated
- Clean places to nest
 - The fewer the particles, like clay and silt, the better!
- Trees!
- Hiding places
 - Tucked away pools
 - Undercut banks
- Unpolluted water with plenty of woody material and things to eat, like insect larvae.
- Free flowing waters
 - No obstructions, like dams or culverts
 - Connected streams allow brook trout to find cool water in summer and places to mate in the fall

**HEALTHY BROOK TROUT =
HEALTHY WATERS AND COMMUNITIES**

*This brochure was funded by the
West Virginia Rivers Coalition
through a grant from the
West Virginia Department
of Environmental Protection.*

Are wild brook trout near me?

- If you live near cold water in the Eastern U.S., you may have brook trout!
- Their range includes areas from Georgia to northern New England, and the Great Lakes and Canada
- The blue and orange on maps (unfold this flyer) show where brook trout live now
- Visit <https://easternbrooktrout.org> or snap the QR code on the map page.

Who can help with advice and funding?

- There are many organizations that support and help pay for brook trout conservation efforts, including:

**UDSA Natural Resources Conservation
Service (NCRS) Farm Service Agency (FSA)
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Trout Unlimited
Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture
Your local conservation district
Your state fish and wildlife agency**

Check out what other resources are available in your state: <https://easternbrooktrout.org/why-wild-brook-trout/landowner-resources-1> or snap this QR code:



Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture is a National Fish Habitat Partnership. Our vision is healthy coldwater systems with fishable Brook Trout populations throughout their historic eastern geographic range.

West Virginia Rivers Coalition is a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit dedicated to conserving and restoring West Virginia's exceptional rivers and streams.

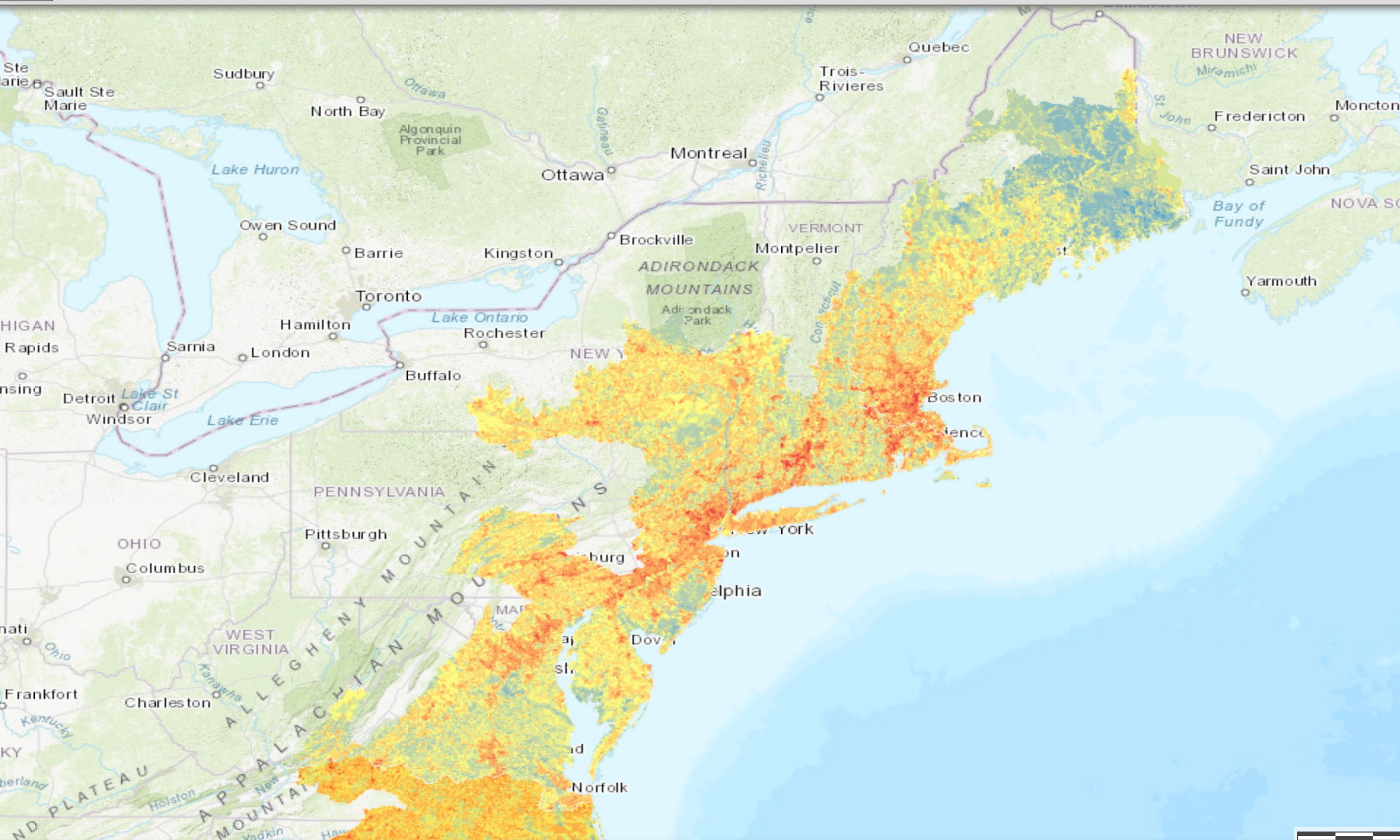
**BROOK TROUT AND
HEALTHY WATERS:
A WIN-WIN**



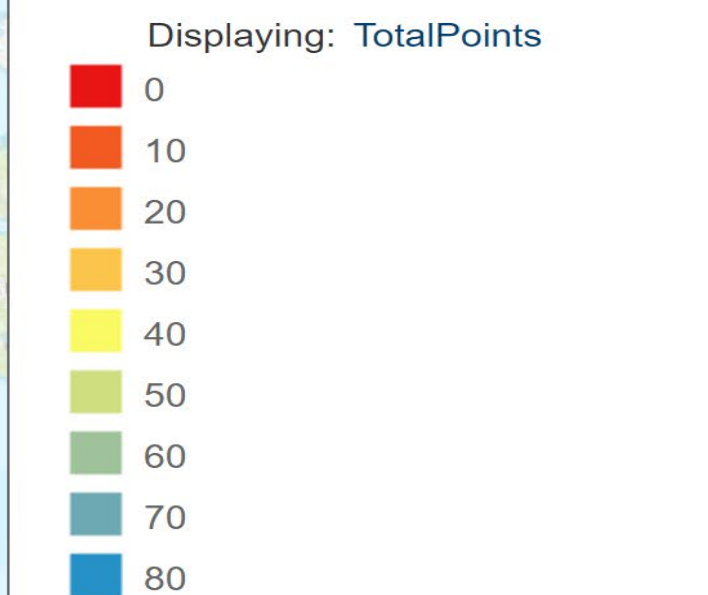
**A GUIDE FOR LIVING NEAR
COLD WATER STREAMS**

Presented jointly by

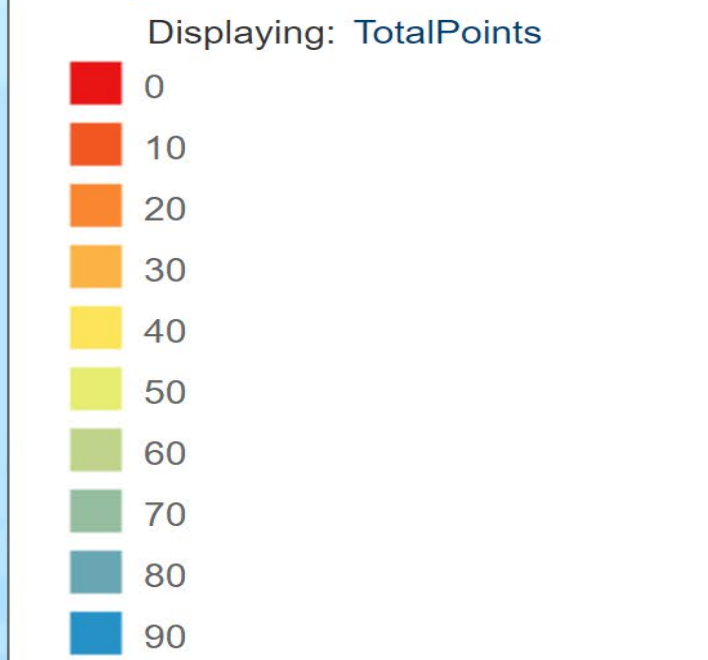




▼ Mid-Atlantic Diadromous Analysis, North Atlantic Diadromous Analysis [2 datasets]

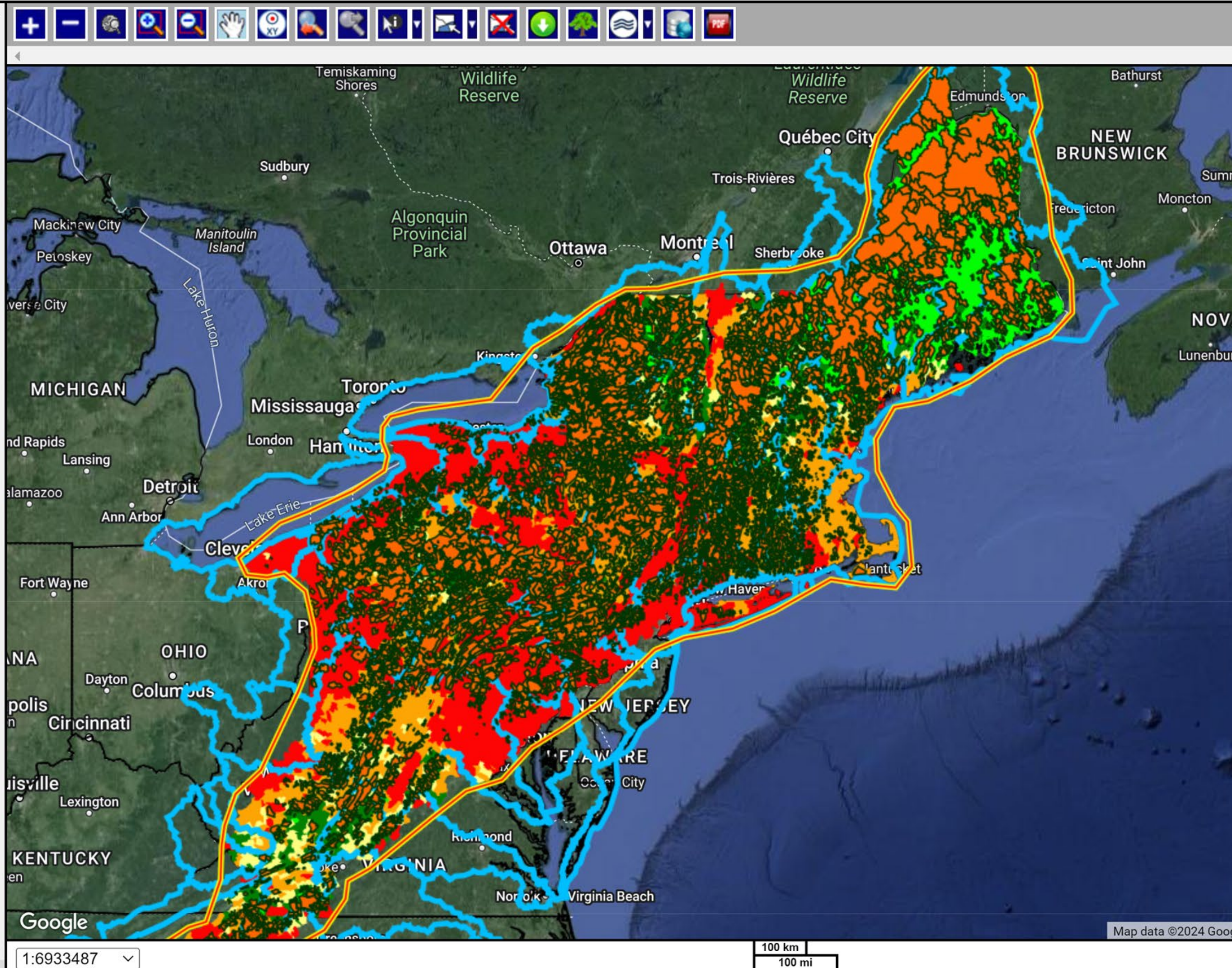


▼ South Atlantic Diadromous Analysis



Legend

- ☒ Hybrid Imagery
- ☐ Terrain
- ☐ Land Cover
- ☐ Surficial Lithology
- ☐ Elevation
- ☐ Base Flow Index
- ☐ Mean Precipitation
- ☐ Mean Max Temperature
- ☐ Mean Min Temperature
- ☐ NO3 Deposition
- ☐ SO4 Deposition
- ☐ Canopy Cover
- ☐ Solar Gain
- ☐ Impervious Surface
- ☐ Counties
- ☒ US States
- ☐ EBTJV States
- ☐ National Forest
- ☒ 100 M Stream Corridor
- ☐ Catchments (NHD+ 2)
- ☐ EBTJV Classified Catchments
- ☐ Subwatershed Assessment
- ☒ Subwatershed Priority Scores
- ☐ HUC 12
- ☐ HUC 10
- ☐ HUC 8
- ☒ HUC 6
- ☒ Wild Trout Habitat Patches
- ☐ Brook Trout Habitat Patches
- ☐ Brook Trout Patch Vulnerability
- ☒ EBTJV Boundary
- ☐ Chesapeake Bay Boundary
- ☐ LCC Boundaries
- ☐ Streams (NHD+ 2)
- ☐ Waterbodies (NHD+ 2)
- ☐ Dams
- ☐ Crossings



ACE REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2024

Removed the
non-federal
match
requirement
for
coordination
activities

1:1 non-federal
match
required for
each FHP
rather than
each project

Reduced
project
solicitation and
funding
process from
18 to 12 months

Added (3)
additional seats
to the National
Fish Habitat
Board for a total
membership of
28



WHAT NEXT?

2026 National Fish Habitat Action Plan

FIRST UPDATE TO THE
ACTION PLAN SINCE 2012

SMART OBJECTIVES SO
THAT SUCCESS CAN BE
MEASURED

RENEWED CALL TO
ACTION AND
COLLABORATION

20TH Anniversary Celebration in 2026

SPECIAL EVENTS AND
PROMOTIONS
THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

National Fish Habitat Assessment

PHASE 1 RELEASED IN
DECEMBER 2025

SIGNIFICANT
UPGRADES FROM
PREVIOUS NATIONAL
ASSESSMENTS DUE TO
NEW DATA AND NEW
TECHNOLOGY

CONNECT WITH US



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NATIONAL
**FISH
HABITAT**
PARTNERSHIP