



National Fish Habitat Assessment – Future Direction

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Assessment Survey – FHP Responses

- 85% responded
- FHP Use of Assessment
 - Tell National Fish Habitat story and relate to local conditions
 - For data
- Board Assessment Use
 - Tell National Fish Habitat story
 - Communication tool for outreach
 - Data for FHPs
- Purpose
 - National story and comparisons along with science underpinning
 - Outreach



Assessment Survey – FHP Responses

- Needs to fulfill
 - Outreach, communication and public awareness
 - Info and data to Board and FHPs
- Audience
 - Broad – Elected Officials, public, FHPs, resource agencies
- SDC – FHP Interaction
 - FHP input early, regular check-ins, feedback and product reviews
- Options
 - Preferred – No clear favorite but fewer wanted no national analysis
 - Live-with – Similar to preferred
 - Cannot live with – Data warehouse



Assessment Survey – FHP Responses

- Process focus
 - Both hydrology and connectivity
 - Few wanted neither and little feedback on other processes
- FHP specific assessment
 - Connectivity and hydrology
 - Little consensus beyond those



Proposed Assessment Approaches

- Four Options

- Similar full National Fish Habitat Assessment approach to 2015
- Update to current National Fish Habitat Assessment with key national variables, regional coastal and FHP focus
- Update to current National Fish Habitat Assessment with regional/FHP focus
- Data Warehouse with no new National Fish Habitat Assessment



Assessment Recommendation

- Combination of Options 2 and 3
 - Updated National Fish Habitat Assessment for inland waters with revised current data layers and no update to analytical method
 - Focused analysis of connectivity and hydrology for inland waters
 - Continued refinement of the Great Lakes Coastal Assessment
 - Regional assessments for the Marine Coastal Assessment with no update to the National Fish Habitat Assessment for marine coastal areas



Assessment Products

- Inland Assessment
 - Updated National Fish Habitat Assessment using revised existing data layers
 - No changes in analytical methodology or new national layers in condition analysis
 - Hydrology and connectivity focus on either national or regional scales depending on data availability
 - Up-to-date picture of inland fish habitat along with data on key processes for FHPs
- Great Lakes Coastal Assessment - GLAHF
 - Improvements to spatial framework and habitat classification
 - Fish-stressor relationships development



Assessment Products

- Marine Coastal Assessment
 - No update to the 2015 National Fish Habitat Assessment
 - Regional assessment(s) to support Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) and identification of Habitat Areas of Particular Concern (HAPCs) building on the 2015 product



Assessment Process

- Who
 - Inland – MSU with USFWS support
 - Great Lakes Coastal – GLAHF
 - Marine Coastal
 - Assessment Team(s) overseen by steering committees with support from NOAA
- Assessment Product Development
 - Early scoping with FHPs
 - Regular status calls and webinar updates
 - Feedback and product reviews



Assessment Timeline

- Updated National Fish Habitat Assessment – 5 years
- Hydrology, connectivity and regional coastal products – January 1, 2024



Thank You!

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for more information

