

NATIONAL FISH HABITAT PARTNERSHIP



Tampa Shoreline, Florida
MacDill AFB
2008 "Water to Watch"



Chipola River, Florida
2013 "Water to Watch"

Meeting Book for The
National Fish Habitat Board

October 26-27, 2016



**National Fish Habitat Board Meeting
October 26-27, 2016
Draft Agenda and Board Book Tabs**

Sunrise Beach Resort
14825 Front Beach Road
Panama City Beach, FL 32413

Conference line: 866-560-0760, **Passcode:** 2832957

Web link: <https://mmancusa.webex.com/mmancusa/j.php?MTID=meff108c4dc17a1fbdd1e7cff9fe0eaf>

Wednesday, October 26

8:00-8:15	<u>Welcome and Introductions</u>		Commissioner Adrian “Bo” Rivard (<i>FL Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission</i>)
8:15- 8:30	<u>Housekeeping</u> <i>Desired outcomes:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Board action to approve draft agenda and draft June call meeting summary.• Board review of future meeting schedules and format.	Tab 1	Tom Champeau (<i>Board Chair- FL Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission</i>)
8:30 - 9:00	<u>Joint Fish Habitat Partnership – Science and Data Committee Workshop Report</u> <i>Desired outcome:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Board understanding of workshop outcomes and recommendations.	Tab 2	FHP Representative and Gary Whelan (<i>Science and Data Committee Co-Chair – MI Department of Natural Resources</i>)
9:00 - 10:00	<u>National Fish Habitat Assessment</u> <i>Desired outcome:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Board understanding of Assessment history.• Board discussion and consensus on the following questions:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Why do we conduct a National Habitat Assessment?○ What is the expectation?○ How much do we continue to invest?	Tab 3	Gary Whelan (<i>Science and Data Committee Co-Chair – MI Department of Natural Resources</i>) and Peter Ruhl (<i>Science and Data Committee Co-Chair – USGS</i>)
10:00-10:15	<u>Break</u>		

10:15-11:15	<p><u>Document of Interdependence & Relationship Between the Board and FHPs</u> <i>Desired outcome:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board understanding of document purpose. • Board discussion and consensus on the following questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ How does the Board support the FHPs, and vice versa? ○ What are the commitments from the Board to the FHPs, and vice versa? 	Tab 4 Bryan Moore (<i>Board Member – Trout Unlimited</i>) and Therese Thompson (<i>Coordinator – Western Native Trout Initiative</i>)
11:15 - 12:00	<p><u>Multi-state Conservation Grant Program</u> <i>Desired outcomes:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board awareness of the status of the 2016 grant. • Board understanding of the 2017 Multi-state Conservation Grant Program results. • Board discussion of Multi-State Conservation Grant for future years. 	Tab 5 Ryan Roberts (<i>Board Staff – Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies</i>)
12:00 – 1:00	<u>Lunch</u>	
1:00 – 3:00	<p><u>Beyond the Pond Fundraising and Marketing</u> <i>Desired outcome:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board awareness of fundraising and marketing progress to date and next steps. • Board discussion and consensus on the following fundraising questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ What is the role of FHPs in raising money? ○ How do we engage Beyond the Pond in fundraising coordination, training, and support? • Board discussion and consensus on the following questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Why are we marketing? ○ What is effective marketing? ○ How much more branding and marketing do we want to do? ○ Should we continue to put emphasis on network of FHPs and connection to the National effort? 	Tab 6 Tom Champeau (<i>Board Chair- FL Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission</i>)
3:00–3:15	<u>Break</u>	
3:15 – 4:00	<p><u>Fishers and Farmers Presentation</u> <i>Desired outcome:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board awareness of the accomplishments and challenges facing the Fishers and Farmers FHP. 	Heidi Kueler (<i>Coordinator – Fishers and Farmers Partnership</i>)

4:00 – 5:00	<p><u>Federal Caucus</u> <i>Desired outcome:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board understanding of parking lot items developed at the March Executive Session: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ What is the purpose of the Federal Caucus? ○ What is the work of the Federal Caucus (e.g. meeting tasks and charge)? ○ Who are the participants in the Federal Caucus? • Board discussion and consensus on the following questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ What is the current expectation of the Federal Caucus? ○ How can it be most helpful to the goals of the NFHP? ○ Does the Federal Caucus need to be reinvigorated? 	Tab 7 Dan Shively (<i>Board Member - USDA Forest Service</i>)
5:00	<u>Recess</u>	
5:30 – 6:30	<p><u>Happy Hour at Runaway Island Bar and Grill</u> 14521 Front Beach Rd. Panama City Beach, FL 32414 (.3 mile/5min walk)</p>	
Thursday, October 27		
8:00 – 9:00	<p><u>Committee Report-outs</u> <i>Desired outcomes:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board understanding of committee accomplishments as they relate to 2016 Board Priorities • Board understanding of committee priorities and funding needs for 2017 	Tab 8 Ryan Roberts (<i>Board staff-AFWA</i>), Stan Allen (<i>Board Member-Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission</i>), Mike Leonard (<i>Board Member – American Sportfishing Association</i>), and Gary Whelan and Peter Ruhl (<i>Science and Data Committee Co-Chairs-MI DNR and USGS</i>)
9:00-10:00	<p><u>Board 2017 Priorities and Draft Budget</u> <i>Desired outcomes:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board understanding of the draft budget • Board understanding of 2017 Priorities with consideration of the budget 	Tab 9 Ryan Roberts (<i>Board Staff – Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies</i>) and Emily Greene (<i>Board Staff – NMFS-ERT</i>)
10:00 – 10:15	<u>Break</u>	

10:15 - 11:15	<u>Transition Checklist for the New Administration</u> <i>Desired outcome:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Board awareness of the AFS new administration check list• Board discussion and consensus on if it should develop a separate new administration checklist	Tom Bigford (<i>Board Member – American Fisheries Society</i>)
11:15 – 11:45	<u>SARP Presentation</u>	Jessica Graham (<i>Coordinator- Southeast Aquatic Resources Partnership</i>)
11:45 – 12:00	<u>Wrap-up</u>	Tom Champeau (<i>Board Chair- FL Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission</i>)
12:00 – 1:00	<u>Lunch</u>	
1:00 - 5:00	<u>Field Trip:</u> local trip to unique dune lake habitat and/or natural springs habitat restoration projects addressing SARP objectives.	



Draft National Fish Habitat Board WebEx Summary: June 29, 2016

Members present:

Peter Aarrestad (NEAFWA)	Mike Leonard (ASA)
Stan Allen (PSMFC)	Ross Melinchuk (SEAFWA)
Mike Andrews (TNC)	Bryan Moore <i>for</i> Chris Wood (TU)
Doug Beard (USGS)	Chris Moore (MAFMC)
Tom Bigford (AFS)	Sam Rauch (NOAA Fisheries)
Tom Champeau (At-Large State Seat)	Dan Shively <i>for</i> Rob Harper (USFS)
Ellen Gilinsky (EPA)	Sean Stone (CCA)
David Hoskins <i>for</i> Dan Ashe (USFWS)	

Members absent:

Doug Boyd (SBPC), Whit Fosburgh (TRCP), Kelley Myers (MAFWA), Ron Regan (AFWA), Ed Schriever (WAFWA), and Ron Skates (NAWS)

Approved by motion:

- Chris Moore moves to approve the June Board Meeting Agenda with noted revision; seconded by Stan Allen. No opposition noted; motion passes.
- Bryan Moore moves to approve the Finance Committee Charter and Bylaws; seconded by Chris Moore. No opposition noted; motion passes.
- Chris Moore moves to add the Pacific Lamprey as a Fish Habitat Partnership; seconded by Stan Allen. No opposition noted; motion passes.
- Chris Moore moves to approve the March National Fish Habitat Board Conference Call/WebEx Summary; seconded by Ellen Gilinsky. No opposition noted; motion passes.

Updates and discussions:

- Housekeeping – It was made known that the Fall Board meeting will be held October 26-27 in Panama City, FL and a joint FHP and Science and Data Committee workshop will likely precede it (October 24-25). A potential field trip on either October 27 or 28 highlighting SARP shoal bass work on the Chipolla River is also being considered. The Beyond the Pond Board of Directors may also meet during that week.
- Executive Leadership Team – All Board members whose terms were up for review in 2016 were re-appointed for another term. The ELT has decided to keep the NFWF seat vacant for the time being.
- Executive Session Outcomes and Next Steps - Staff provided an overview of their recommendations for addressing the action items and parking lot items generated at the Board Executive Session in March. The focus of the overview was given to those items which will be discussed in greater depth at the October Board meeting, which include Topic 4 - Board Committees and Working Groups; Topic 6 - Board Funding; Topic 8 - Purpose and role of FHPs; Topic 9 - Relationship between Board and FHPs; Topic 10 - New FHPs; and Topic 12 - Marketing and Branding. With regard to topic 6 the Board discussed the need to conduct demand driven versus supply driven work and the need to survey the FHPs and their partners. The Board also discussed how photos can be shared with FHPs for their use.
- USFWS Funding Methodology – The Board was provided with a summary of the FWS-NFHP FY16 process and allocations, the details of which can be found in Tab 4 of the Board Book. It was noted that the funds for most FHPs have been provided to the regions, which will then move the funds out to the FHPs. NOAA is working to provide funds to the Southeast Alaska FHP for nearshore priorities.

- 2015 National Fish Habitat Assessment – The Board was provided with an overview of the process, noting the members of the writing team, the number of comments received on the draft report and the desire for the Board to provide feedback on the beta website by July 15th. The Board was also provided with a brief demo for navigating the report.
- Legislative Update – It was noted that the NFHP legislation was included in the Sportsman’s Act within the Senate Energy Bill, but that it was not included in the House Sportsman’s Act and Energy Bill. The next step is to conference the two bills, and if it goes to conference, the NFHP bill will be in play. Advancement of the MOU has been paused until the legislation plays out, at which point how and whether to move forward will be decided.
- Budget and Finance Committee Update – An overview of the Budget and Finance Committee charter was provided to the Board, including its need and function, key objectives and responsibilities, and deliverables, the details of which can be found in Tab 7 in the Board Book. It was clarified that this Committee would not be taking final actions but rather would be making recommendations, and that the Committee would not have fundraising responsibility but rather strategy development responsibility.
- Pacific Lamprey Candidate Partnership – The Board viewed a presentation noting the Board staff’s recommendation that the Board recognize the Pacific Lamprey Candidate as an official Fish Habitat Partnership. The presentation also outlined specific places where additional clarification from the Pacific Lamprey group is needed -- either in a separate cover letter or when it updates its strategic plan. The Board discussed whether the FHP should be approved given that it would be considering whether or not to continue accepting new FHPs at the October meeting. It was also acknowledged that if it was approved as an FHP, it would not be eligible for USFWS-NFHP funds.
- Partnerships Committee Update – The Committee’s new membership and re-prioritized tasks were made known to the Board and are also available in Tab 9 of the Board Book. Comments on the draft document of interdependence are expected by the end of July.
- NFHP 10-Year Anniversary Steering Committee Update – The Board was made aware of the different components of the Anniversary plan which includes an infographic, advertisements, and other outreach materials, in addition to involvement at events such as a Capitol Hill briefing, the AFS Annual meeting, and the AFWA annual meeting. Further details and the associated costs of these items are available in Tab 10 of the Board Book. It was noted that NOAA had provided some funds to help cover costs and that AFS is assisting with the Capitol Hill briefing.
- Multistate Conservation Grant Program Update – It was noted that several Partnerships had come together to submit an LOI, which also included some funds for 10-year Anniversary activities. Concern was expressed with regard to the fact that one FHP submitted its own LOI, separate from the joint-FHP LOI, and what that could mean for future rounds.

Action items:

- The Joint FHP-SDC workshop will be added to Tab 1c.
- FHPs and their partners will be surveyed regarding what they want from the national assessment, what products they want, and how they are using the existing products.
- The Communications Committee will work with FHPs to identify an avenue through which high quality pictures can be shared and used.
- At the Fall 2016 Meeting, the Board will develop a transition checklist for to the new Administration.
- Any comments with regard to the outcomes of the Board’s March executive session should be sent to Emily Greene (emily.greene@noaa.gov).
- The SDC will provide a navigation of the habitat assessment website on a monthly USFWS regional coordinator call.

Future Board meetings:

- October 26-27 in the Florida Panhandle
- No new Board members were approved in 2016, so an introductory summer call will not be held.

Board approved documents:

- March Board meeting summary
- Budget and Finance Committee Charter

Additional attendees:

Julie Carter (WNTI)
Karen Eldridge (USFWS)
Jessica Graham (SARP)
Emily Greene (Board Staff – NOAA contract)
Julie Henning (USFWS)
Elsa Haubold (LCC Network)
Cecilia Lewis (Board Staff – USFWS)
Pat Montanio (NMFS)
Joe Nohner (MGLP)
Steve Perry (EBTJV)
Bill Rice (USFWS)
Ryan Roberts (Board Staff - AFWA)
Peter Ruhl (SDC Co-Chair USGS)
Therese Thompson (WNTI)
Tim Troll (SWAK)
Jeremy Voeltz (USFWS)
Gary Whelan (SDC Co-Chair MI DNR)
Daniel Wieferich (USGS)

National Fish Habitat Board Meetings 2016 -2018

Year	Date	Location	Comments
2016	October 26-27 (Wed-Thurs)	Panama City, FL	
2017	January 18 (Wed)	Tele/web conference	Annual budget & priorities
	March 8-9 (Wed – Thurs)	USFWS – Falls Church, VA	
	June 28 (Wed)	Tele/web conference	
	Summer	Tele/web conference	Introductory call for new members.
	October 18 – 19 (Wed-Thurs)	South Dakota	
2018	January 17 (Wed)	Tele/web conference	Annual budget & priorities
	March 6-7 (Tues-Wed)	Washington, DC Area	Reserve room at TNC HQ
	June 27 (Wed)	Tele/web conference	
	Summer	Tele/web conference	Introductory call for new members.
	October 17-18 (Wed-Thurs)	TBD	There are many places where the Board has not met (e.g. Ohio River Basin). Staff welcome suggestions for specific locations within these regional examples or beyond.

Record of Past Board Meetings 2006 -2014

Year	Date	Location	Facility
2006	September 22	Aspen, Colorado	Hotel
	November 16	Washington, DC	Hall of States
2007	January 16	Teleconference	
	March 1-2	Washington, DC	Environmental Protection Agency
	June 6-7	Washington, DC	Commerce Department
	October 2-3	Arlington, VA	Hotel
2008	February 20-21	St. Petersburg, FL	Tampa Bay Watch
	May 13-14	Arlington, VA	The Nature Conservancy

	October 7-8	Arlington, VA	The Nature Conservancy
2009	March 4-5	Harrisburg, PA	Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission
	June 25, 2009	Leesburg, VA	National Conference Center
	October 7-8	Arlington, VA	The Nature Conservancy
2010	January 15	Teleconference	
	March 3-4	Memphis, TN	Ducks Unlimited
	June 9-10	Silver Spring, MD	NOAA headquarters
	August 25	Teleconference	
	October 12-14	Portland, OR	Columbia River Intertribal Fisheries Commission
2011	January 13	Teleconference	
	March 11	Teleconference	
	April 12-13	Arlington, VA	The Nature Conservancy
	July 26-27	Madison, WI	Hotel
	October 19-20	Albuquerque, NM	FWS Regional Office
2012	January 12	Teleconference	
	March 1	Teleconference	
	April 17-18	Arlington, VA	The Nature Conservancy
	July 10-11	Portland, ME	Hotel
	October 16-17	Ridgedale, MO	Big Cedar Lodge
2013	January 16	Teleconference	
	February 26-27	Arlington, VA	FWS headquarters
	April 15	Teleconference	
	June 25-26	Salt Lake City, UT	Utah State Capitol
	October 22-23	Charleston, SC	SC DNR
2014	January 15	Teleconference	
	March 9-10	Denver, CO	
	June 25	Tele/web conference	
	November 8-9	National Harbor, MD	Held in conjunction w/ RAE Summit
2015	January 14	Tele/web conference	
	March 3-4	Arlington, VA	The Nature Conservancy
	June 24	Tele/web conference	
	September 22	Tele/web conference	Introductory call for new members and interested individuals.
	October 20-21	Sacramento, CA	Hotel
2016	January 20	Tele/web conference	
	March 8-9	Arlington, VA	The Nature Conservancy
	June 29	Tele/web conference	

Total: 44 meetings (in-person and teleconference) held to date

Facilitators Agenda: Joint Fish Habitat Partnership-Science and Data Committee Workshop

Date: 10/24/2016

Start: 8:00 a.m.

End: 5:00 p.m.

Date: 10/25/2016

Start: 8:00 a.m.

End: 12:00 p.m.

Location: Panama City

Meeting Participants: Representatives from NFHP Science and Data Committee and regional Fish Habitat Partnerships

Facilitator: Katie Woodside and Lora Silvanima

Purpose/Goals:

- Bring together the Science and Data Committee (SDC) and Fish Habitat Partnerships (FHP) together for the first time to review and discuss the National Assessment, including how the existing assessments are being used
- Utilize expertise of the SDC and FHP to generate guidance to improve future fish habitat assessments

Pre-meeting assignments:

1. Review Agenda
2. Review survey results
3. Review Assessment Products and 2015 National Fish Habitat Assessment Strategy

Other Information:

Workshop Location: The Sunrise Beach Resort Conference Room, located on the first floor of the Sunrise Beach Resort (14825 Front Beach Road Panama City Beach, FL 32413). Breakfast and lunch will be provided on both days.

Monday, October 24

<u>Time</u>	<u>Agenda Topic</u>	<u>Desired Results</u>
7:45	Bagels and Coffee	
8:00	Meeting Overview	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purpose of meeting understood • Agenda is understood & finalized • Meeting Agreements are established
8:30	Current State of National Assessments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarify current purpose: Understand participant’s perspectives on the current vision and purpose of the assessment • Clarify current roles: Understand current key contributing groups, their role(s), and how they currently fit in

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understand current intended audience and users
10:00	Break	
10:15	Use of National Assessment Now and in the Future	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understand how assessments are currently being used Determine key needs and uses for the assessment Determine if other assessments could meet needs or if they could help improve the NFHP Assessment (and how to access these products).
12:00	Lunch	Provided
1:00	Future Assessments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clarify future purpose: Determine the purpose for the assessment going forward Clarify future roles: Determine how to coordinate with each other in a meaningful way related to assessment.
2:30	Break	
2:45	Assessments – Going Forward	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A set of specific improvement recommendations for future assessment work or a short list of ideas. List of key characteristics and questions to guide future inland and coastal assessment work
4:30	Meeting Feedback	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide feedback to facilitation team.
4:45	Wrap Up and Next Steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Actions, Decisions and Issues are reviewed and confirmed Next steps are clarified
5:00	Adjourn	
5:30	Happy Hour	Sharky’s Beachfront Restaurant 15201 Front Beach Rd.

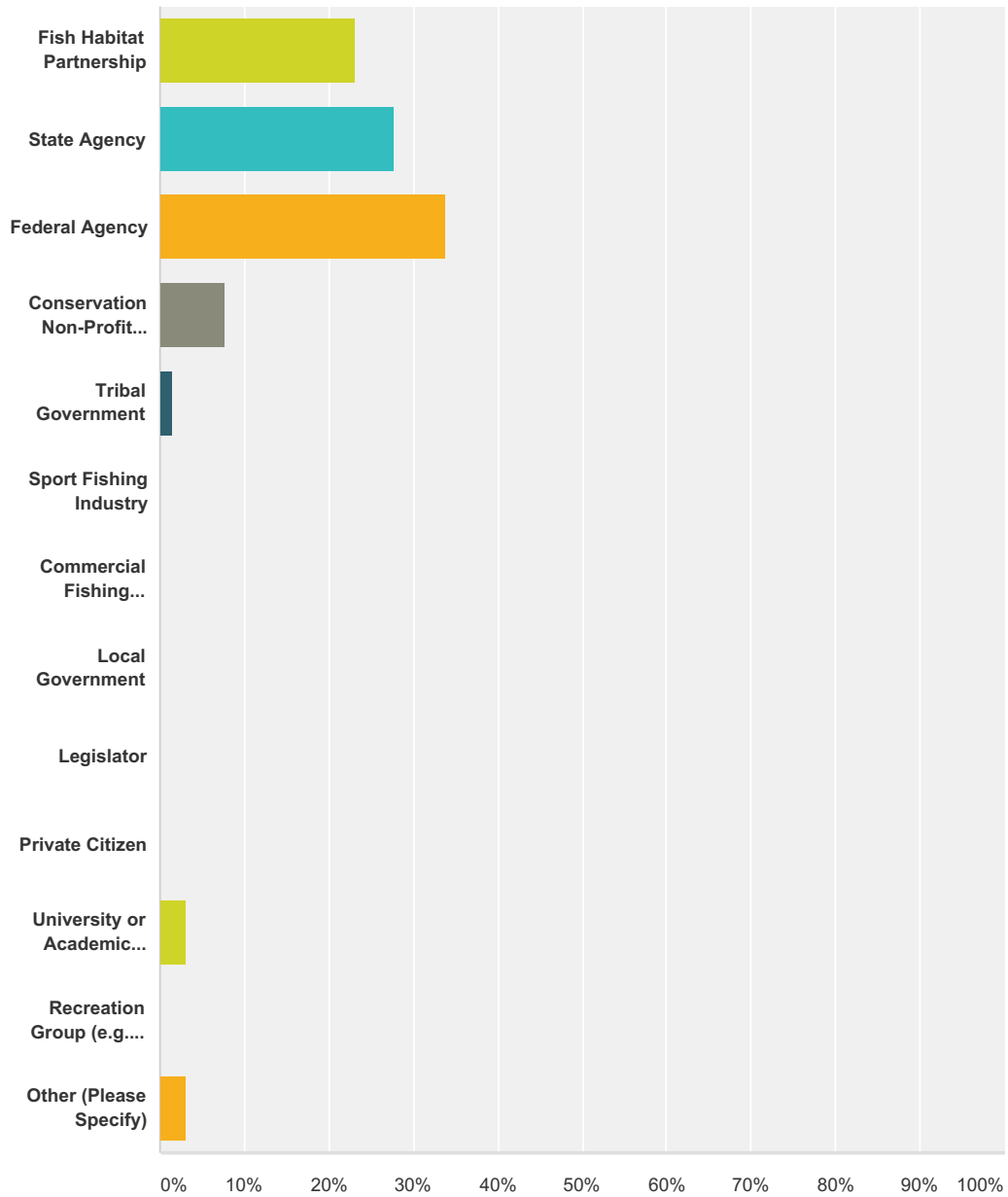
Tuesday, October 25

<u>Time</u>	<u>Agenda Topic</u>	<u>Desired Results</u>
7:45	Bagels and Coffee	
8:00	Overview	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reminder of previous day’s outcomes. Send day agenda agree on and finalized.

8:15	Non-Assessment Topics (FHPs and SDC may split into two separate groups)	<p>Discussion on the following topics as time permits:</p> <p>FHP topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beyond the Pond • USFWS contracting process • Future Multi-State Grant opportunities • USFWS funding method • Guidance for strategic planning • NFHP Board process for funding projects • Future joint-meeting opportunities • Open time as opportunity provides <p>Science and Data Committee topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Celebrate 2015 assessment completion • Review previous day workshop input on assessments and synthesize science related items • Initiate draft work plan for future assessment work based on previous day input (may be too early to do this) • Discuss SDC skill set and examine how to most effectively engage. • Discuss assessment work plan (what is going well, what can we do to improve, what are our priorities near and longer term, what do we need from Board)
10:15	Break	
10:30	Breakout groups report	Reports from Breakout Groups
11:00	Questions, Requests, and Recommendations for the Board	Determine questions, requests, and recommendations for the Board.
11:30	Wrap Up and Next Steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Actions, Decisions and Issues are reviewed and confirmed • Tasks are assigned with names & deliverable dates • Loose ends tied up • Next steps are clarified
11:45	Meeting Feedback	Provide feedback to facilitation team.
12:00	Adjourn	

**Q1 Please note which sector you represent
(ie. which hat are you wearing?):**

Answered: 65 Skipped: 0



Answer Choices	Responses	Count
Fish Habitat Partnership	23.08%	15
State Agency	27.69%	18
Federal Agency	33.85%	22
Conservation Non-Profit Organization	7.69%	5
Tribal Government	1.54%	1

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Sport Fishing Industry	0.00%	0
Commercial Fishing Industry	0.00%	0
Local Government	0.00%	0
Legislator	0.00%	0
Private Citizen	0.00%	0
University or Academic Research Unit	3.08%	2
Recreation Group (e.g. kayaking, diving)	0.00%	0
Other (Please Specify)	3.08%	2
Total		65

Q2 Please note the name of your organization:

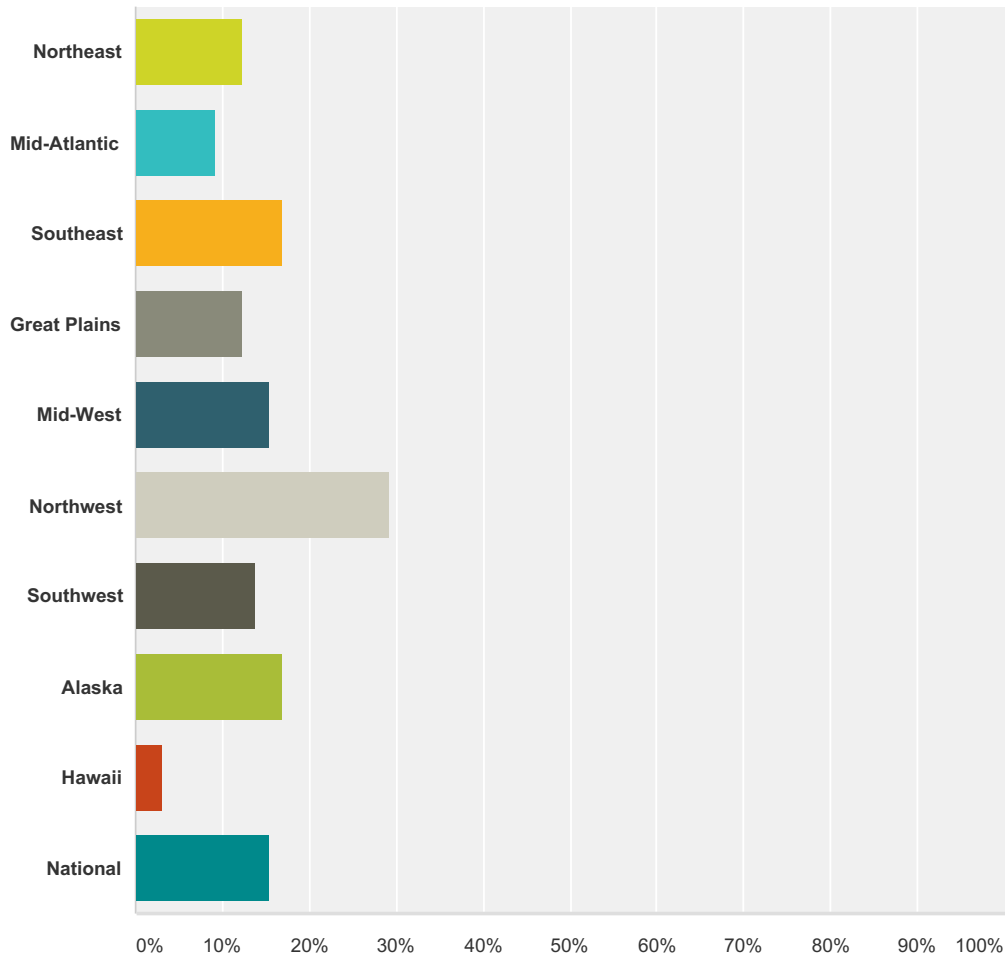
Answered: 62 Skipped: 3

Q3 It is not required, but if you are open to providing your name and email for follow-up questions please provide it here:

Answered: 41 Skipped: 24

Q4 Please note the geographic area(s) that best represents where you work.

Answered: 65 Skipped: 0



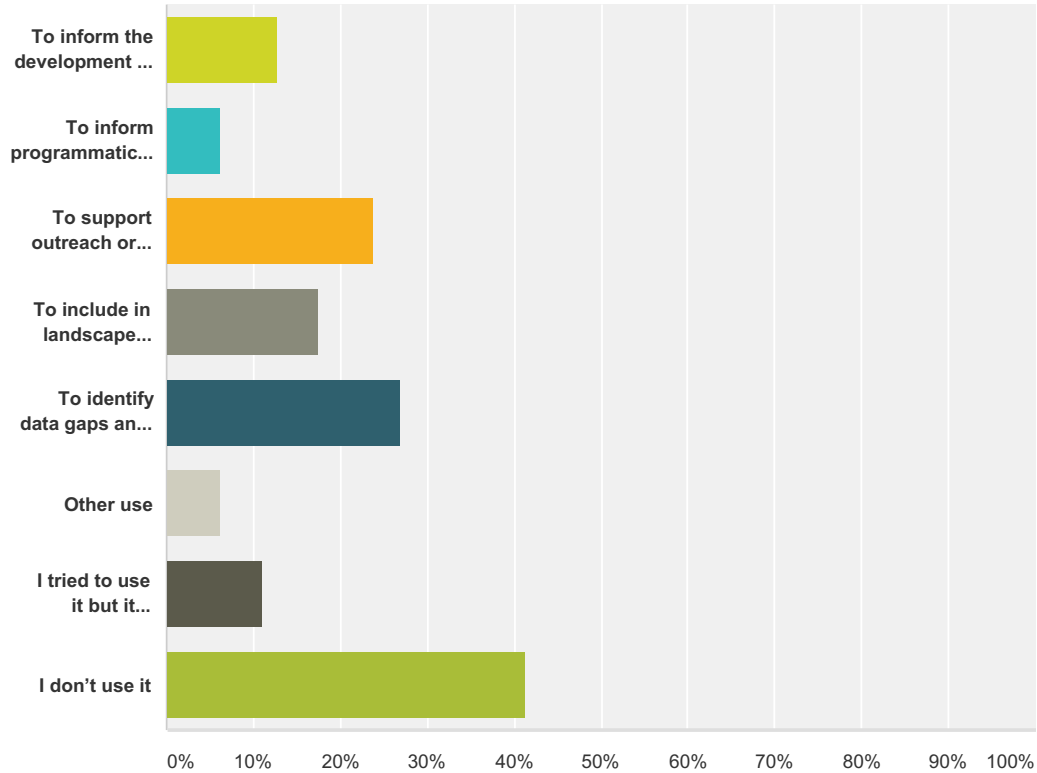
Answer Choices	Responses
Northeast	12.31% 8
Mid-Atlantic	9.23% 6
Southeast	16.92% 11
Great Plains	12.31% 8
Mid-West	15.38% 10
Northwest	29.23% 19
Southwest	13.85% 9
Alaska	16.92% 11
Hawaii	3.08% 2
National	15.38% 10

National Fish Habitat Assessment Survey

Total Respondents: 65

Q5 How have you or your organization used the 2010 Assessment? Please select all answers that apply.

Answered: 63 Skipped: 2



Answer Choices	Responses
To inform the development of strategic priorities for your organization (e.g., selection of focal watersheds, rivers, or ecoregions for conservation investments)	12.70% 8
To inform programmatic decisions regarding investments in local habitat restoration, protection or enhancement projects (e.g., utilizing the assessment as scoring criteria in conservation granting programs)	6.35% 4
To support outreach or advocacy efforts that profile local, regional, or national fish habitat degradation issues (e.g., briefings to national or state legislators)	23.81% 15
To include in landscape modeling or similar research or conservation assessment applications	17.46% 11
To identify data gaps and inform when and where more research needs to be done	26.98% 17
Other use	6.35% 4
I tried to use it but it didn't fit my needs	11.11% 7
I don't use it	41.27% 26
Total Respondents: 63	

Q5 Please explain your answer in more detail:

We are currently using the 2010 assessment as part of our West Coast prioritization framework, as a high level metric of the stress level of estuaries, and the inland rivers that feed the estuaries. Many of the estuaries along the West coast were not included in the 2010 assessment, so we are working to fill those gaps in data and our understanding of cumulative stress on estuaries.

I am just learning about this assessment. Past WDFW Habitat Program participants in this effort (e.g., Hal Beecher) have retired, and while this is a huge loss it also represents an opportunity to better connect tools like this to our operations.

To my knowledge, our organization has only used this assessment as a reference and not specifically applied it for any analyses.

I wasn't aware of the 2010 report. We don't have any staff dedicated to habitat restoration and most of our work is on reservoirs and small impoundments.

I have used it in the very general sense of making the statement that a large percent of the states streams have been judged to be in pretty good shape.

Agency staff involved in NFHAP Partnerships focus on priority issues identified in planning efforts within the respective partnership vs. using a national assessment document.

For the mountain west, southwest & Great Plains, the Assessment had serious limitations. The impacts that many managers & scientists would agree are likely among the most severe in these regions, were not included. Foremost among these impacts are water withdrawals, diversions, hydrologic regime alteration, grazing, and energy development. As a result, we feel the Assessment dramatically over-estimates the condition of aquatic habitat in the West and the amount of high quality habitat. These shortcomings are acknowledged (especially in the 2015 update) and the data constraints that gave rise to them are understandable. It's just the reality that until some of those data gaps are filled, it is tough to see how we would be able to make much use of the Assessment, because it really is not a very accurate reflection of conditions on the ground.

We use more local assessments when working with partners on these projects

While useful in terms of identifying habitat risk at the national level, this assessment has not aided in currently identifying areas that would benefit best from investments in habitat science efforts as opposed to any other areas/regions where data needs still remain high.

More detailed assessments, limiting factor analyses, and prioritization processes typically occur at the local, regional, or species-specific level.

We have used the 2010 assessment as a reference to support positions we take related to critical areas being impacted by habitat degradation and present our position to elected officials and regulatory representatives. We use the assessment to compliment other references to direct resources to target important restoration and protection areas.

To articulate need in a broad context for grant applications

I conduct threats and prioritization assessments for SARP, and have used individual data layers that went into the NFHP assessment
RFHP conducted its own assessment on reservoir habitat impairments which we have been using to prioritize projects. The 2010 and 2015 assessments have not progressed to include reservoirs. We have provided data to the Science and Data Committee and look forward to working with the Committee to incorporate that information into the national assessment.
I was not with the Partnership in 2010, but my sense would be that it was used as a tool for: -outreach and to highlight our collective work across the country and specifically highlight habitat -The preparation probably helped AK FHP's and Mat-Su review and identify gaps in data and what is yet needed to bring us up to national standards. -It is then used as further evidence when we make our case for funding these needed data sets or improvements.
We used the 2010 Assessment as a starting point for our Regional Assessment and to inform some of our priorities (targeting projects on private farmland to reduce sedimentation and nutrients)
We have used the 2010 assessment results to help inform about results in other modeling activities.
I have not used it in the past, but could see its value as a tool to support outreach efforts and to potentially inform habitat restoration program decision making.
For the most part the National Assessment has not been useful to our partnership for setting regional priorities - mainly because we have access to other regional resources that provide more in depth information. However, we did use the 2010 Assessment to outreach to partners, make them aware of the assessment, and engage them to help supply additional data sets to help improve the future assessments in Alaska in general and SE Alaska specifically. Collectively we have also used the gaps in data available in Alaska for use in the assessment to support our collective regional efforts to improve NHD+ efforts in Alaska - including pursuing Multi-State grants and other leveraging funding from Alaska based LCCs.
Have had some introduction to it but we have lots of information from our Watershed Condition Framework, species rangewide assessments and databases and temperature models that meet a fair bit of our needs at our scale.
While the 2010 Assessment is a start for a national assessment, it does not have the detail necessary for directing local or regional strategies. It helps put into perspective that aquatic issues are a national issue.
The Forum explored the idea of using the 2010 inland assessment using the following dataset as a surrogate for habitat quality https://map.dfg.ca.gov/bios/?al=ds733 . The NFHP Habitat Conditions Indices. We were looking at potentially clipping this dataset with the state of CA to use as the habitat quality surrogate for the fish passage prioritization tool that the Forum has been developing called FishPass. Geographic information systems data was used to attribute 15 disturbance variables to the catchments of mapped river reaches to calibrate an index of cumulative disturbance that considered effects originating from both local and upstream catchments. These features contain local and network catchment human disturbance variables representing anthropogenic alterations to landscapes in California, including land use, roads, dams, mines, and point-source pollution sites.
Too many data gaps on pertinent data layers.

<p>We used the 2010 assessment for the stream habitat component of a fish habitat plan for Minnesota. The plan used a landscape approach to identify intact, high quality systems for protection and degraded systems for restoration.</p>
<p>I believe that we made use of some of this data for a prioritization plan for riparian planting efforts. I have not used it myself.</p>
<p>It is not accurate for the southwest.</p>
<p>Used as basis for continued juvenile salmon monitoring in the hope that biotic assessments can be incorporated in the future.</p>
<p>I did not have an opportunity to use it. We had recently conducted other prioritization efforts at smaller scale, so when that information was needed we used our local instead.</p>
<p>The glossy publication and broad fish habitat issues identified are a useful outreach tool.</p>
<p>scale is too broad and disconnected. GIS layers would be better</p>
<p>Assessment does not include standing waters, just streams only</p>
<p>I used the 2010 Inland Fish Habitat Assessment in a previous role, to contribute to a project that was looking for nationally standardized and easily explainable metrics for habitat condition. The 2010 assessment was used to complement land cover datasets to consider ecological integrity of the landscape.</p>
<p>To my knowledge, the BLM has not used the 2010 assessment in prioritizing aquatic management. Without hydrologic data, this report is very misleading for the western states.</p>
<p>The survey completely mis-represents the Western US. According to this survey, nearly all Western land is in great shape and nearly everything East show serious stressors. Not only is this inaccurate, but it actually creates a problem for Western systems by mis-characterizing them to decision makers. Water in the West is shaping up to be one of the biggest battles of the 21st century and this report (about fish!!) ignores the problems. I actually find this report detrimental to fisheries.</p>
<p>Although we feel there are other more localized and finer scale assessments of aquatic habitat available here for Alaska, the foundation of the NFHP Assessment is a solid approach built on standardization and consistency, making it possible to compare aquatic habitat conditions across states/regions or time (2010 vs 2015). As such, any finer Alaska-only strategy could mirror these efforts for greater benefit.</p>
<p>We used it in general terms to support fish habitat protection and restoration decisions, and the lack of sufficient resources to address all priorities.</p>
<p>was unaware of its existence</p>
<p>I have not had the opportunity to use it</p>
<p>We have used the assessment as primarily a communication tool in presentations.</p>

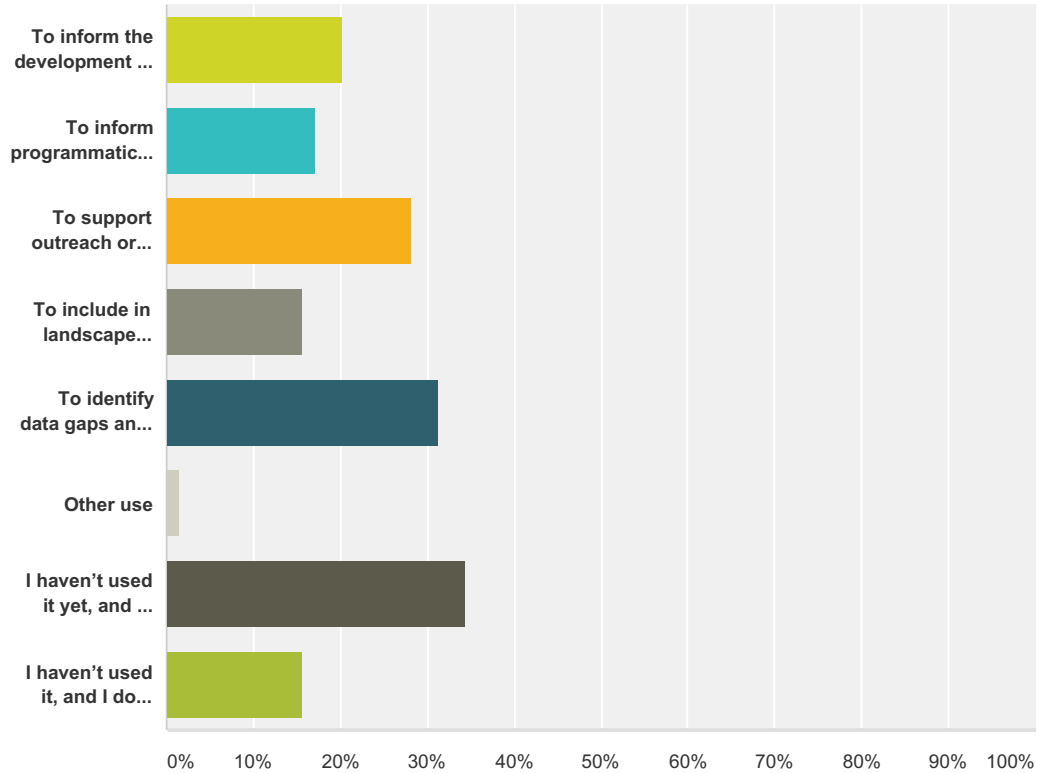
I just joined PMEP in 2016, so catching up. This document appears useful to provide context for state-oriented work on a national scale.

The 2010 assessment is a quasi-risk/threat assessment at a scale that is well above what on-the-ground Brook Trout resource managers need to identify priority conservation focal areas.

Assessment does not appear to differ from those produced by other organizations (e.g., EPA's National Coastal Condition Assessment, FWS's South Atlantic Landscape Conservation Cooperative Habitat Blueprint, and FWS' National Wetland Inventory change assessments) already in use by our office. While the 2010 Assessment's focus on fish is nice, it is not pointing us towards different focal geographic locations. In short, it is just a different route to the same answer.

**Q6 How do you or your organization anticipate using the 2015 Assessment?
Please select all answers that apply.**

Answered: 64 Skipped: 1



Answer Choices	Responses
To inform the development of strategic priorities for your organization (e.g., selection of focal watersheds, rivers, or ecoregions for conservation investments)	20.31% 13
To inform programmatic decisions regarding investments in local habitat restoration, protection or enhancement projects (e.g., utilizing the assessment as scoring criteria in conservation granting programs)	17.19% 11
To support outreach or advocacy efforts that profile local, regional, or national fish habitat degradation issues (e.g., briefings to national or state legislators)	28.13% 18
To include in landscape modeling or similar research or conservation assessment applications	15.63% 10
To identify data gaps and inform when and where more research needs to be done	31.25% 20
Other use	1.56% 1
I haven't used it yet, and I'm not sure if I will use it	34.38% 22

National Fish Habitat Assessment Survey

I haven't used it, and I don't anticipate using it	15.63% 10
Total Respondents: 64	

Q6 - Please explain your answer in more detail:
Same as for 2010.
Our FHP is due to revise/update our strategic plan and intend to use the 2015 assessment to identify focus watersheds.
As I mentioned above, this work has not been well-known or well-connected to WDFW's Habitat Program operations in the past. I look forward to learning more.
To my knowledge, our organization has only used this assessment as a reference and not specifically applied it for any analyses.
In thinking about this answer, I pulled up the results for Wyoming and reviewed them in ArcMap. We just completed our SWAP draft and also our recent aquatic habitat priorities without using this resource. But we would reference this in the future in about 5 yrs - which may be the 2020 version. I anticipate referencing this effort as I talk about the need for river restoration, especially near communities in Wyoming.
Identification of degraded habitats, fish passage barriers and data gaps will be used to develop future projects and seek funding, especially in reference to ADF&G Sport Fish strategic plan and partnership plans. Agency will also maintain current and seek to develop new partnerships and collaboration with other agencies, organizations and stakeholders.
See answer to Question #5. The 2015 Assessment features a prominent explanation of the data issues / missing impacts that I mentioned in that answer, which is good. I just don't see the state agency being able to make much concrete use of the assessment until some of these issues are resolved.
see above
The available nationwide data layers do not include a number of habitat limitations relevant to western states.
We will use the 2015 assessment much in the same way we have used the 2010 assessment to help guide our outreach and habitat activities.
We have yet to identify how the RFHP assessment data will fit and/or be incorporated into the national assessment. Until then, we will continue to rely solely on our own assessment.
Similar to 2010 assessment the national 2015 assessment is not at a fine enough scale in Alaska for us to use it at a more local or regional level in Mat-Su. The purpose it does serve for us is -helps with outreach and to highlight our collective work across the country and specifically highlight habitat. -The preparation helps AK FHP's and Mat-Su review and identify gaps in data and what is yet needed to bring us up to national standards. -It is used as further evidence when we make our case for funding these needed data sets or improvements.
We don't use the 2015 Assessment as much as the 2010, since we completed our Regional assessment. We fine tuned our local assessment with relevant local data and use it to help select focal areas to work. Our GIS/Science Team lead has been working on getting the data set up to produce HUC-8 scale map books. There are also habitat condition scores similar to what DS did in the previous assessment. (Mapbooks were created for each state - WI MN IA IL MO)

<p>My role within the organization is concentrated within one watershed. Unfortunately this larger assessment does not meet my current needs as I use local threats assessments and the NBBI to inform many of my decisions. However, it provides an excellent promotional tool.</p>
<p>In 2014 and 2015 SEAKFHP, and other Alaska FHPs interacted closely with the NFHP Inland Assessment team to improve the 2015 Assessment for Alaska. As a result we are now hopeful, with these improvements, the new assessment can be used to inform strategic priorities, inform restoration and protection efforts as well as continue to help us identify additional gaps in science and data that will continue to improve the assessment. Additionally, we can continue to leverage the assessment to support our request for science and data funding for Alaska.</p>
<p>as noted above we have a good number of tools available to us but there may be some complementarity with this NFHAP assessment to fill in larger scale data gaps that we may have.</p>
<p>We have not had a chance to explore it in detail yet, but plan on it at a future Science and Data meeting.</p>
<p>Water use and diversions are a significant source of fish issues in the West and this is not covered at all in the national assessment.</p>
<p>Refining the assessment will help us implement our habitat plan with better assessments of fish habitat condition.</p>
<p>The Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture in which we participate will be revisiting scoring criteria based on our 2015 catchment level assessment and may well incorporate some of the risk factors in this assessment. As such, I would most likely use it indirectly.</p>
<p>It is not accurate for the southwest.</p>
<p>Since we have a lot of the data that the assessment shows about TN, we will likely use the national assessment to support our claims about specific watersheds.</p>
<p>The 2015 Assessment does a poor job of representing the current status of Alaska's fish resources, habitat degradation, and future habitat threats. The State of Alaska, federal agencies, universities, industry, and consulting companies have considerable data regarding fish abundance, distribution, and trends, current habitat conditions and human development, and future habitat threats (by location/industry). These data need to be incorporated in the Assessment to provide any usefulness for Alaska.</p>
<p>same as above</p>
<p>My answer is tentative because the work of our organization towards reporting on conservation outcomes is still emerging and in development. However, if Oregon participates in regional (multi-state) conversations with conservation partners, policymakers, or potential grantors, I think there could be value in using the NFHAP products to help tell the story.</p>
<p>Without hydrologic data for the western US, the assessment is extremely misleading, indicating that that the southwest aquatic habitat is not degraded, which simply not true. There must be some basic hydrologic data, even just days of zero flow, which could be used to indicate some sense of an intact system.</p>

As stated above, using this report would only hurt my organization due to its inaccuracy.

I don't see the ADFG-SF using the 2015 Assessment any differently or more widely than the 2010 Assessment, except we expect to see some improvements in data quality or use of additional data layers based on comments we provided during the last round.

AFS plans to write to FWS and NMFS leaders to urge them to make full use of the 2015 Assessment, unlike what happened post 2010.

Anticipate similar uses to 2010

I don't believe the resolution of the assessment is such that we would be able to use it in a regulatory context, which is our primary responsibility in NOAA.

I haven't spent any time as of yet looking at the 2015 assessment report. Please be aware that the EBTJV has completed two range-wide assessments of the status of Brook Trout, one at the HUC 12 scale and one at the catchments scale, which provides our partners with more specific details than either of the national assessments.

Assessment does not appear to differ from those produced by other organizations (e.g., EPA's National Coastal Condition Assessment, FWS's South Atlantic Landscape Conservation Cooperative Habitat Blueprint, and FWS' National Wetland Inventory change assessments) already in use by our office. While the 2015 Assessment's focus on fish is nice, it is not pointing us towards different focal geographic locations. In short, it is just a different route to the same answer.

Q7 What do you see as the strengths of each of these assessments?

Answered: 51 Skipped: 14

Q7 - What do you see as the strengths of each of these assessments?
Open-Ended Response
The ability to compare across regions, and that they use WBD's as part of the framework.
It is quite a feat to bring together all of these relevant data sets and make them compatible for one national database
Our region was analysed at a fine geographic scale.
The national scope of the assessment offers the opportunity to coordinate across state boundaries, which is a natural fit for long, linear projects such as interstate highways, rail, or energy transmission infrastructure.
2015 version has a nice web interface
I don't have an opinion. I am not familiar with these.
The biggest strength is the national application of the same standard approach, so one can get a broad picture of conditions.
Provide relatively consistent methods/tools to assess and characterize fish habitats at a good sized spatial scale.
Particularly in the 2015 Assessment, I appreciate the detailed explanation of why some impacts are not included and how those might affect the overall "habitat degradation" picture. I think the format is very readable and digestible, and the vignettes about specific species and FHP projects are compelling. Good illustrations & graphics throughout.
Having the big picture of the condition of fish habitat at a national scale.
It provides a good national overview of areas where habitat degradation and risk is strongest.
They may fairly reflect habitat conditions/threats in those states where urbanization or intensive agriculture are a primary limitation to habitat quality
NA
Combined with other available assessments, these assessments offer an additional layer to evaluate the greatest combined habitat needs and to direct funding accordingly.
It is an important responsibility to monitor overall trends
I believe these assessments are well done in providing uniform data across the landscape
The RFHP assessment was tailored to our needs.

A way of portraying and showcasing habitat across the country and providing more and a coordinated incentive for Alaskan FHP's to keep updating their data so it can get up to National standards.
2010 - nice to see national overview with data not presented that way before. 2015 - love to see the web format = easier to read, get a clearer picture about what is happening nationally/regionally
It is a nationally comparable assessment of stream habitat for fish. There are a lot of metrics and variables that are useful for further analysis.
The ability to have assessment results for every stream and river in the US, Alaska, and Hawaii.
the compilation of data, especially the cumulative disturbance index
I feel I do not use it enough to answer that question accurately.
Tool to communicate threats to fish habitat at a National level
Consistency
Snapshot in time, showing progress. Targeting priorities Outreach
Gaining support across a national scale for aquatic issues. There are stressors on all levels of aquatic management.
Identifying gaps in data and finding ways to improve the criteria used for assessing
emphasis on ecological condition, watershed perspective; national consistency in design and scoring.
Attempts to give a consistent snap shot across the nation.
Landscape approach that identified opportunities for both protection and restoration.
The strength of this type of assessment is to be able to visualize levels of habitat risk on the landscape and identify opportunities and vulnerabilities. They are excellent tools for sitting down and visually communicating with stakeholders.
For regional managers, helps with understanding status and prioritize actions.
It was a good attempt.
Good overview of the impacts to fish habitat from multiple different sources. Provides a good argument for protection of fish habitat in Alaska.
I have not used either enough to compare them. But the online features of the 2015 assessment look promising.

2010 - Nice presentation (pleasing to the eye)
provides jobs and funding to those involved with the development of the assessments
Gives a general overview of the landscape as it pertains to National Goals.
They give a periodic assessment of the status of the National perspective
-Consistent habitat metrics, easily calculated with nationally available datasets -Stories demonstrating the successful approach of collaborative partnerships in fish habitat restoration
nice, glossy document for some policy makers and some public
N/A
coarse scale characterization of aquatic habitat; coarse scale comparison across areas within Alaska; a strategic model/platform that could be repeated with more localized data.
2010 serves as our baseline on process, knowledge, and influence. 2015 shows progress, including adding more marine areas and improvements on 2010.
The national scale allows for comparisons across not only our entire FHP but among all FHPs.
national scope, use for prioritizing at large scale
Nice visual depiction of habitat in the country, although the results are intuitive in showing the most degradation in populated areas.
Easy to read; appears technically based & fairly assesses habitat impacts without political influence; provides good context on a national scale
I don't know.
None, honestly.

Q8 What do you see as the weaknesses of each of these assessments?

Answered: 51 Skipped: 14

Q8 - What do you see as the weaknesses of each of these assessments?
Open-Ended Response
The estuaries that are used are not in line with the regional estuary partnership, so it is hard for us to use the data in a west coast wide context (nearly 300 estuaries are missing from the assessment).
Assessing fish habitat is important, but it would also be great to get actual fish biomass data at this scale to really show the relationship between habitat vulnerability and impacts to fish
It's difficult to get other agencies to use the results.
We may have more fine-scale or detailed assessments available on smaller scales, which would affect the utility of the assessment for more localized habitat protection or restoration planning or projects.
Not a specific weakness of the report per se, but the current website link to the 2010 report is confusing because it leads to a data system (http://ecosystems.usgs.gov/fishhabitat/) that doesn't indicate whether it is through 2010 or 2015.
I don't have an opinion. I am not familiar with these.
In the west, the importance of local water use patterns is huge and the assessments are still necessarily weak on this aspect. Also, I'm not sure to what degree ephemeral and intermittent streams are filtered out. Finally, the many water diversions in the state are likely not accounted for in the data used.
Not including human impacts to fish habitat that have known detrimental impacts to habitats and fish production.
Covered in my response to #5, above.
In some local cases it does not seem to accurately reflect conditions on the ground or in the water, so that can hurt the credibility of the assessment for local managers and partners. We have to be careful about how we recommend use of the assessment.
The scale of information still remains at a very coarse one, and little direct application of the results has occurred.
Do not reflect the habitat limitations more common in western watersheds, e.g. grazing impacts, irrigation diversions, hydrologic alteration.
public outreach
NA
Important data layers for impacts in some areas such as water flow, grazing intensity, forest management and legacy mining, as examples. Grazing intensity has a very significant influence on water quality throughout the west along with water flow and diversion.

<p>The regional or state scale of data usually means that these reports are not using all/most of best available science or data that exists</p>
<p>This assessment is very coarse, so we don't use the full assessment when looking at where to take management actions within small basins. In areas where we need more detail that is non-uniform across the nation, we are having to assess habitat at a smaller scale using state specific data. For instance, the NFHP assessment uses the National inventory of dams, which specifies over 5000 dams in GA. However, our dam inventory has over 30,000 dams in GA, so we use these data. Also, when we look for specific catchments to target restoration, looking at a degraded catchment from NFHP shows us which catchment has aggregated threats. So, it is hard to then know which threats to mitigate on a map for that degraded catchment.</p>
<p>The RFHP assessment does not, nor is unlikely to, include empirical fish population data. Sampling methodologies and catchability make a nationwide association of habitat variables and fish population structure variables relatively meaningless. Presence and absence data are not relevant to reservoir fisheries because our focus is on species that are widely present. Our needs are more related to abundance data and its association to habitat variables. The lack of standardized sampling methods and a wide range in vulnerability to gears and associated sample variability make any relationships suspect. The national assessment has yet to include reservoirs.</p>
<p>There does not seem to be enough accurate and standardized data to get a fine scale resolution in Mat-Su, so the threat becomes that you are inaccurately representing the story of habitat status. If you cannot get to fine enough scale, or are not including appropriate variables for a given area then you may be indicating that habitat is fine, when perhaps it's not.</p>
<p>2015 - I don't see as much of a need for the 2015. Our partners are more interested in our Partnership assessment because it is scaled down to the local level better.</p>
<p>The time periods of the source data are out dated but are best available.</p>
<p>I feel I do not use it enough to answer that question accurately.</p>
<p>Challenges in taking advantage of local data resources. Communication and coordination with local and regional data experts Process to vet and verify the outcome of the assessment</p>
<p>losing some regional context or relevance by forcing the national consistency. there are obviously tradeoffs.</p>
<p>Lacks great detail</p>
<p>Does not have a regional level of detail to help with local issues. It should never be used as a replacement for local/regional assessments.</p>
<p>They do not, at this time, incorporate "at risk" resources, only presently impacted resources.</p>
<p>very difficult to access substantial response data (i.e. actual fish populations condition rather than stressor surrogates that imply likely condition) in as many places as would be ideal.</p>

<p>Use of national datasets only makes the assessment not very useful even for landscape strategic planning efforts. Recommend that funding is identified to fill data gaps over time to make it more useful. Also, depending on the species of interest, it does not capture what is really imperiling a particular species.</p>
<p>Needed some tweaking by our planners for local applications, but I would not consider that to be a weakness.</p>
<p>It is unusual for this type of assessment to identify problem areas or areas of opportunity of which regional biologists are unaware. The information is often viewed as yesterday's news by regional biologists.</p>
<p>For my position, it is too broad, little downscaled, detailed data re: my study area</p>
<p>The data is incorrect and misleading.</p>
<p>The major weakness for both assessments is the link between land uses (available in continuous data sets) and affects to fish and fish habitat. We need to work toward an assessment similar to the CWA (possibly) where local assessments are conducted and combined to produce a national assessment.</p>
<p>See explanation to question 6.</p>
<p>too many to list, not much benefit to individual FHPs</p>
<p>Agriculture as a stressor is highly variable in that pasture puts less stress on the stream environment than compared to plowed field crops. Refinement would help address limiting factors and lead toward projects addressing those issues.</p>
<p>Not quantitative assessment, just qualitative assessment</p>
<p>May not be too useful within states because the questions are focused at a finer spatial scale. Also, there is often better information available at a finer spatial scale</p>
<p>very little is useful for us in North Dakota</p>
<p>We have grave concerns about the assessments being used to prioritize national projects. Based on the assessments, western aquatic systems are not degraded and therefore, rank low for funding.</p>
<p>They completely leave out the western stressors of water available, withdrawals, etc.</p>
<p>very coarse scale data for making on the ground decisions for habitat protection, restoration.</p>
<p>The apparent lack of interest of key contributors to encourage use in their own agencies. That is counter intuitive. The services must make use of the assessment they were instrumental in completing.</p>

Because it is national in scale, it does not necessarily have the most comprehensive or up to date data layers. For example, dams in the northeast tend to be very small, causing a lot to be overlooked in the assessment.

spatial resolution; limitations of available data inputs at national scale; assessment approach oversimplifies true habitat impacts from anthropogenic activities

They are too broad for site specific activities. Need to look at things on more of a landscape.

Scale and level of effort to create the assessment.

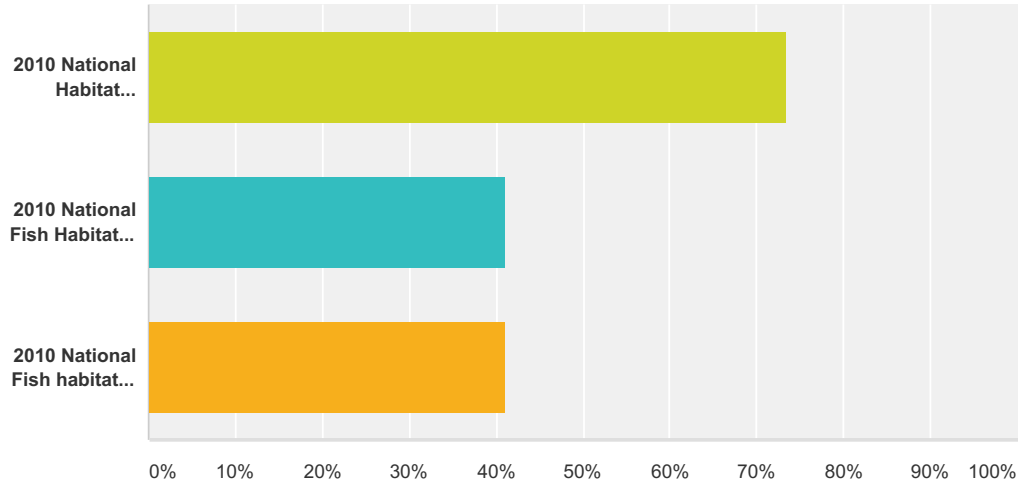
Doc focuses on fish most in trouble. There is much to be said for working on habitat impacts to avoid fish reaching this level and strategies to do both (address fish in trouble & working in habitats that are fairly unimpacted) are good.

these assessments are big pictures, while EBTJV partners are interested in finer scale assessment findings.

Redundancy with other broad geographic assessments.

Q9 If you used the 2010 assessment, which products did you use? Please select all answers that apply.

Answered: 34 Skipped: 31

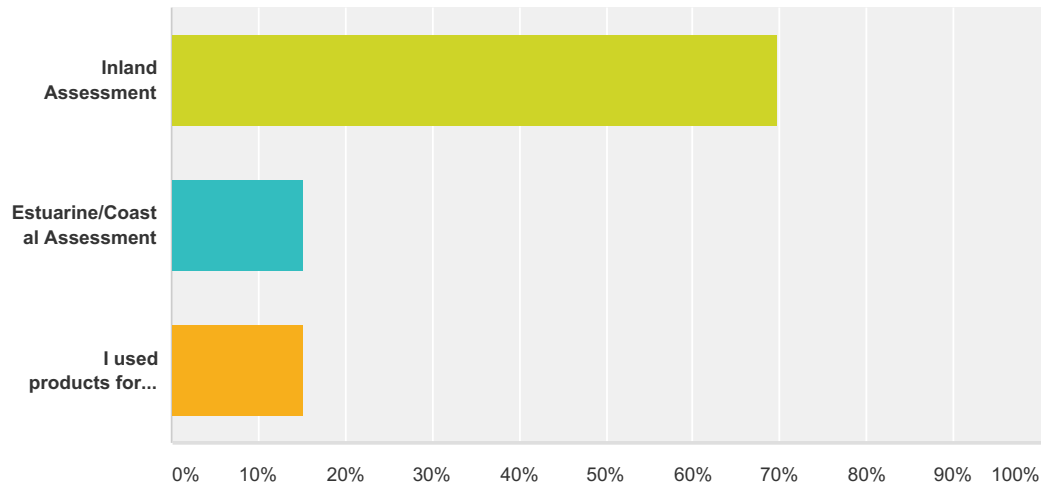


Answer Choices	Responses
2010 National Habitat Assessment Report	73.53% 25
2010 National Fish Habitat Partnership Data System Data and Map Download	41.18% 14
2010 National Fish habitat Partnership Data System Map Viewers	41.18% 14
Total Respondents: 34	

Q9 - If you selected Data and Map Download, please list the data sets you downloaded that were most useful:
Inland and Coastal Assessment
Used report as reference material.
NA
HUC 12, NHD streams and watersheds and FHP project areas
Our GIS lead used the inland data
HCI scores and disturbance data. I also use the map viewer to take a quick look at areas I am interested in.
The national data set
Wanted to look at fish distribution and composition data, but most of what I have access to is more comprehensive.
HCI (local and cumulative) by catchment and by HUC12
Inland dataset
Statewide download of data and individual metrics
NFHAP scores reported by HUC 12s
although I have accessed all of these projects/applications, I didn't really use them; rather I just explored the content for context giving thought to how ADFG-SF might use the information for various purposes.
I did not use - new to group

Q10 If you answered Question 9, which component of the assessment did you primarily use? Please select one answer.

Answered: 33 Skipped: 32



Answer Choices	Responses
Inland Assessment	69.70% 23
Estuarine/Coastal Assessment	15.15% 5
I used products for both environments equally.	15.15% 5
Total	33

Q10 - Please explain your answer in more detail:

I primarily work in inland waters.

NA

Our interests exist in coldwater systems across the country.

specific layers that go into inland assessment, but not the whole assessment

HCI / Human Disturbance Data

I work with streams so coastal habitat assessment is not very useful for my application

We do not have coastal or estuarine habitats.

see answers above

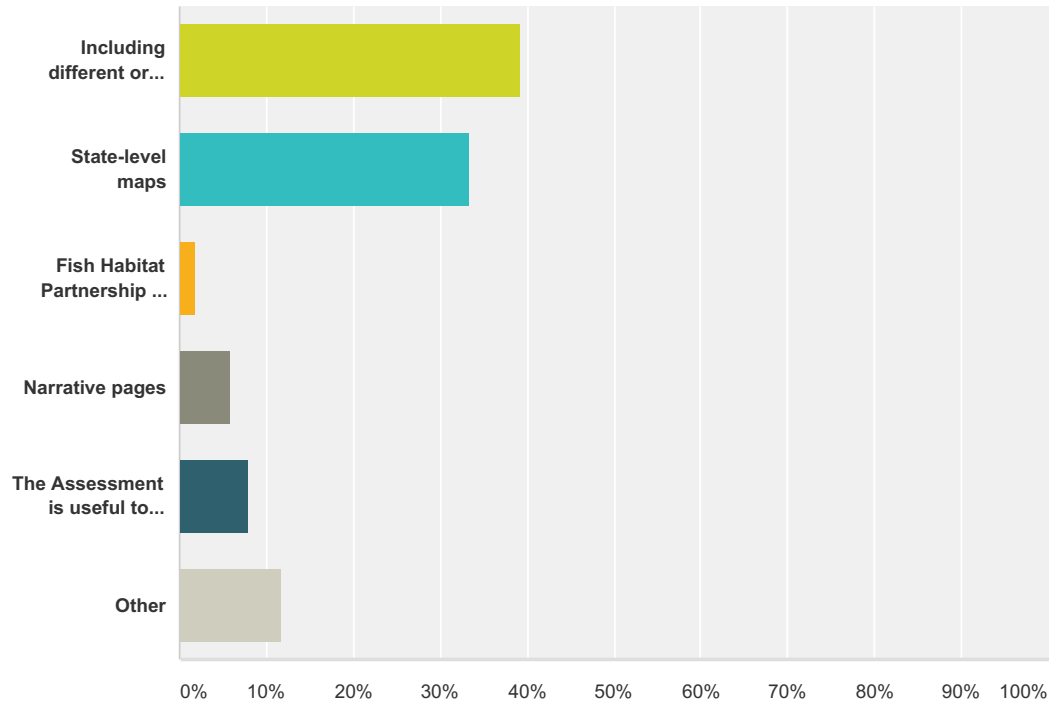
my experience and expertise aligns much more significantly with freshwater habitats.

I worked for NOAA at the time so my interests were more marine.

Our FHP stretches from the headwaters to the continental shelf, so we need both assessments in our region.

Q11 What revisions or enhancements would make the 2015 Assessments more useful to you or your organization? Please select all answers that apply.

Answered: 51 Skipped: 14



Answer Choices	Responses
Including different or additional data sets	39.22% 20
State-level maps	33.33% 17
Fish Habitat Partnership – level maps	1.96% 1
Narrative pages	5.88% 3
The Assessment is useful to me/my organization as is and doesn't need be made more so	7.84% 4
Other	11.76% 6
Total	51

Q11 - Please explain your answer in more detail:
To align the estuaries used in the assessment with the estuaries delineated in the Pacific Marine and Estuary Fish Habitat Partnership. I understand estuaries were chosen based on data availability, but the regional partnership would like to help with that.
NA I did not have time to thoroughly review the 2015 assessment so cannot comment.
I don't have an opinion. I am not familiar with these
I understand there may be some sensitivity to developing state level maps but not for us (I don't think). It took me a bit of work to generate a state level map myself.
The question says to select all answers that apply, but the survey is only letting me select one. So...I have discussed in earlier questions the need to include additional data sets. Second in importance would be state-level maps, and 3rd would be FHP-level maps.
Note survey does not allow selection of more than one! Additional data sets more relevant to western conditions would more accurately reflect degree of alteration or impact at the national scale. This is a huge task, however, and would likely still be insufficient to establish restoration priorities for states or even FHPs. Given the availability of local, regional, or species-specific assessments, refinements to the National Assessment will probably not provide new information or benefits.
NA
Use additional data sets for water flow and alteration, grazing intensity as related to resource degradation, forest management, and legacy mining in both the east and the west.
By the way, this question will not let us select all that apply. We can only enter 1 check mark
Updated datasets for instance, using dams from SARP.
Members of our Science and Data committee may have a more accurate response for this question. For me as coordinator, again the data is not fine scale enough for Mat-Su at this time, so the use is more limited to outreach and funding. Including additional data sets I'm sure would have been helpful as well.
Would like to see more specific fish passage data. (More than just road crossings)
I tried to also add FHP level maps and narrative pages to my selection, but it would not let me.
some sort of climate projections or vulnerability projections. Also, see answer to 12.
Watershed level maps are more relevant to the reader as they can highlight issues specific to a particular watershed. It can also regionalize the issues impacting a watershed.

<p>The Alaska FHPs have commented in the past about the lack of data that identifies "at risk" resources such as the high potential for open pit mines being developed in the headwaters of the Bristol Bay Drainage</p>
<p>I think the additional 12 additional human disturbance values will add more utility to the dataset when describing threats to habitat.</p>
<p>There are national EPA/USGS datasets for water diversions now - recommend that is included in the next go around.</p>
<p>The assessment is misleading because it is missing a huge amount of data.</p>
<p>Only let me select one, but I would prefer maps developed by Partnerships based on standardized criteria that provide more accurate local information, but that also could be used at the National level.</p>
<p>Consistent GIS data layers</p>
<p>By breaking it down to states local partners can use to support their local plans.</p>
<p>Also Fish Habitat Partner Maps (only allowed one selection)</p>
<p>much more detailed info - and engagement of USDA in its development</p>
<p>I strongly suggest working with partners such as the Instream Flow Council or others to get hydrologic data or appropriate surrogates. At the most basic level, fish habitat doesn't exist without water, and an assessment without water quantity data is inappropriate for management decisions.</p>
<p>can only select one answer for # 11</p>
<p>The approach to analysis needs to change to accommodate regional stressors. If you incorporate pertinent stressors by region, you could then compare relative risk among regions. There are many examples of how to do this type of analysis. Western areas, including WNTI and BLM, have requested this data be used in the past.</p>
<p>I also selected State-level maps, but it didn't allow me to select more than one. Many state, federal, and other Alaska stakeholders feel there was data gaps or better more refined-relevant data that could have been incorporated into the 2010 Assessment. These suggestions have probably been channeled through the Southeast Alaska FHP to be forwarded to the NFHP.</p>
<p>Narratives would help users discern differences.</p>
<p>This question did not let me select more than one option. My real answer is: Additional data sets, state-level maps, FHP-level maps.</p>

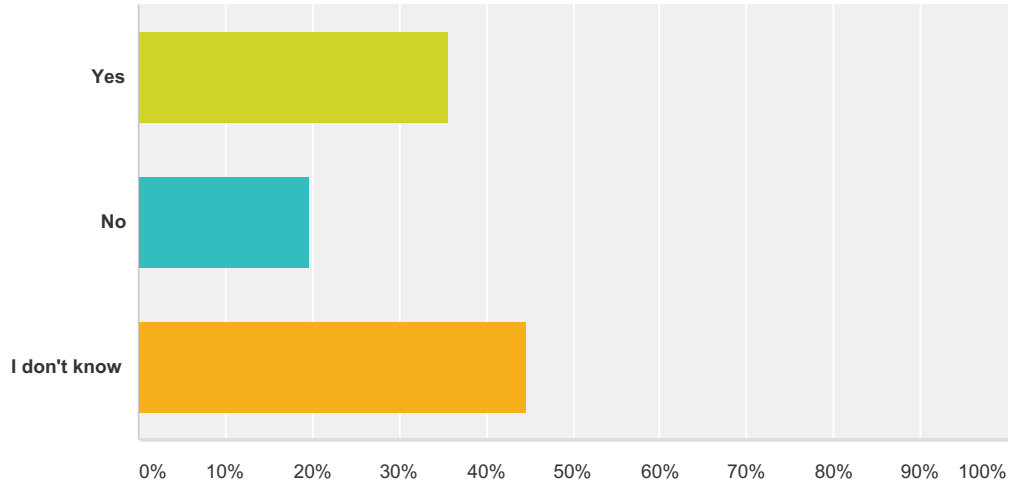
New regional approach for coastal assessment is step in the correct direction but limited scope is an issue - need to complete remaining regions and compile information for national comparison to make this useful. Also need to investigate additional data sets on anthropogenic stressors and natural variability.

Ask me again in a few months - too new to organization to assess

Get the landscape conservation cooperative to pick include the 2015 Assessment in the next iteration of the Habitat Blueprint. Assessment has no value as a stand alone product.

Q12 Are there any changes you could recommend to the 2015 Assessment process? Please explain your answer:

Answered: 56 Skipped: 9



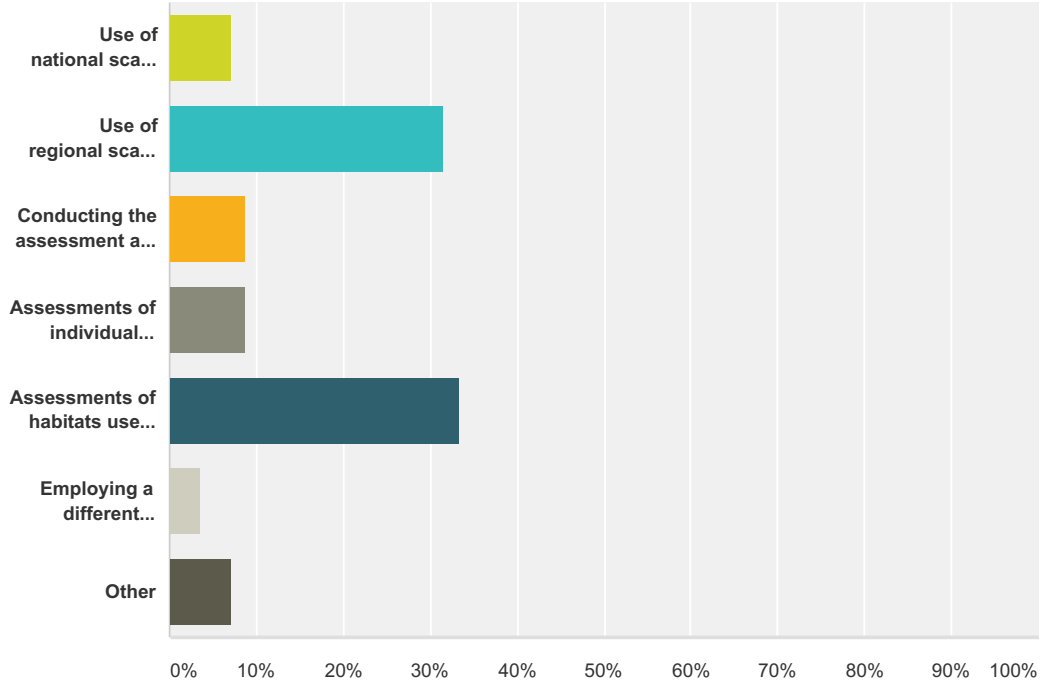
Answer Choices	Responses
Yes	35.71% 20
No	19.64% 11
I don't know	44.64% 25
Total	56

Q12-Please explain your answer in more detail:
Increase coverage of estuarine and coastal habitats.
Inadequate time to thoroughly review before becoming aware of survey deadline.
I don't have an opinion. I am not familiar with these
I haven't fully informed myself about the details or technical side of the data. I noticed there were opportunities to review the preliminary results, which is great, though I never personally took the opportunity as other priorities loomed.
It seemed like a good process to the extent that I know about it, but I was not intimately involved so I can't give a fully informed answer tot his question.
Better integration with FHP assessments and plans, if possible.
If the Assessment is to be used to inform funding priorities or allocation to FHPs or other entities, attention must be given to accurately reflecting habitat conditions/threats in western states by including additional data. Absent that (very difficult) effort, the National Assessments will be relevant and useful to only a subset of states, FHPs, and conservation partners.
This has been done. There is now an inclusion of a good conditional statement explaining missing data sets. The problem is that some of the missing data sets will require independent assessment for effective application.
In addition to aggregated threats, specific stream threats within the catchments would also be helpful, to target restoration action.
It's clearly a huge investment of time and resources. Maybe do what you're doing in terms of checking in with the individual partnerships to see how and if they'd actually use it and re-shape from there. I think it will continue to improve over time and I know our Science and Data Committee is interested in improving our data sets to national standards and working with the national team.
I think the "pasture/grazing" data needs to be more specific. The way it's used in this assessment has a negative connotation. There are great graziers and poor ones. If done correctly, some managed grazing can bring back native prairies. Managed grazing in the Driftless Area has brought back the trout populations - many WI DNR trout biologists will stand by this statement.
How can anyone outside of the assessment team answer this question?
Process for vetting the assessment with regional stakeholders once the initial assessment is available
see WNTI letter (Julie Carter to Kelly Hepler of IMFC) relative to the assessment and shortcomings related to water and water use and grazing, as an example). I believe there may be some accommodation local data on modifying important stream attributes relative to intermittency???
There are national EPA/USGS datasets for water diversions now - recommend that is included in the next go around.

Need to include lake systems in the 2020 Assessment.
Include pertinent data.
As explained under other sections. Not sure that there is the time to make changes to the entire assessment, but it would be nice to have some summary information from the different partners contained in the National Assessment.
No more than what is already described elsewhere
seems no matter how much we're involved in the development, the final product is produced ignoring comments & inputs; someone else makes the final decisions that don't make much sense to me
Need to share process used more widely to stakeholders
much more inclusion of the importance of the Farm Bill
See above.
As identified in response to question #11. Beyond that, this is a LARGE complex question and I find it difficult to address.
Understanding that this is a time and funding issue, but having a more detailed estuarine assessment for the east coast, similar to the Gulf of Mexico, would be much more useful.
Announce its availability to a wider audience
Better coordination of NFHP assessment with existing agency needs. Better communication over the course of development of assessment products between the assessment teams and the SDC, as well as stakeholders, rather than a review process at the end - at this late point in the process there is little that assessment teams can do except defend their products, but earlier input could effect meaningful change that would result in improved products to the satisfaction of all.
I would recommend clear articulation of the customer for these assessments and focus the products on those customers. What I perceive now is that the assessment is trying to be all things to all people.
Ask me again in a few months - too new to organization to provide input
Get the landscape conservation cooperative to pick include the 2015 Assessment n the next iteration of the Habitat Blueprint. Assessment has no value as a stand alone product.

Q13 Specific to your work, what scale of data would be most useful to you in future assessments? Please select one.

Answered: 57 Skipped: 8



Answer Choices	Responses
Use of national scale data sets	7.02% 4
Use of regional scale data sets	31.58% 18
Conducting the assessment at a different spatial scale	8.77% 5
Assessments of individual habitats	8.77% 5
Assessments of habitats used by particular species or groups of species	33.33% 19
Employing a different assessment methodology	3.51% 2
Other	7.02% 4
Total	57

Q13 - Please explain your answer in more detail:

I don't have an opinion. I am not familiar with these

Assessing habitats to species or groups of species, and potentially life history stage, would: 1) relate better to the Anadromous Waters Catalog and Atlas used in Alaska to protect/mitigate anadromous fish habitat (potentially) negatively impacted by human development/use; 2) help plan sample efforts to fill datagaps in the Alaska Freshwater Fish Inventory database; 3) improve post-project assessment - "success" - of habitat restoration projects.

This is a really good question. I could have almost as readily selected "use of regional scale data sets," depending on the specific data sets to be added. Most of these options could be beneficial, again depending on what additional data are used. Generally, finer-scale is better, so this is why I ultimately settled on "assessment of individual habitats"; however I don't think the scale is really the major issue.

I think the national assessment should be at the national scale and should represent the overall condition of fish habitats nationwide. Finer scale assessments are obviously needed for local on the ground work

NA

With native trout species individual ranges would be very useful to evaluate habitat impacts, particularly in regards to climate change. Without protection or habitat improvements we know we are going to lose populations in some areas.

If there were a way to run on the fly assessments using different data at different spatial scales, that would be a great goal, if realistic. I.e: want to do the assessment on the ACF river basin, so more detailed datasets for that river basin (I.e use SARP dams, not NID) are automatically used to generate results for that specific basin.

getting a more regional and localized picture would be most helpful on a day to day level. Having said that, continuing to improve our data standards is also a worthy effort and I think it's helping us move things forward (ie as you know we improved stream mapping standards last year!).

I'd like to see more targeting of Endangered Species and Freshwater Mussels.

but see answer below and not sure this buys you anything unless strong collaboration and integration.

The results at the HUC 8 to the catchment level is most relevant to the project development. The National Scale is fine for what we use it for. The Partnership level is most relevant to the FHP.

Our key species tend to be Chinook, Coho, Sockeye and Pink salmon

keep up the catchment and HUC-based results, as well as the data viewer and downloads

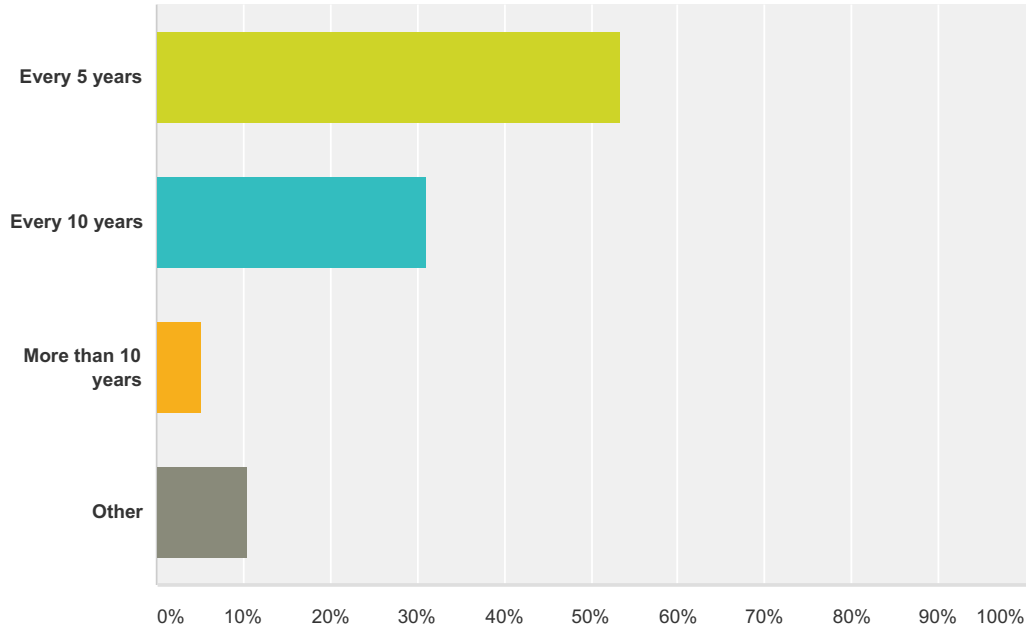
Landscape scale varies between species and different species guilds. Breaking it out this way might be great to hone in on what is actually affecting a particular species with their own unique needs.

Not a fair question, because both national and regional scales are useful. National assessments allow us to judge the condition of the habitat in our state from a broader perspective.

See prior answers.
Relationships between land use and local organisms may differ among regions. Often data sets are incomplete (planned mining and timber harvest vs. actual mining and harvest). Some information is not available in available data sets. It would be nice for assessment work being done at regional or local level to be used in National assessments.
Major focus should be on sport fish species as that is the primary source of revenue for the work being done on habitat across the nation
Finer scale (subwatershed) habitat quality data would be useful
not sure and not familiar with many
See the Utah State University BugLab for specific methods to address relative risk models. We can provide more information if desired.
State and federal entities here in Alaska have ownership and access to finer scale data than what was incorporated into the 2010 Assessment and therefore we may not find data at any scale provided by the NFHP Assessment useful. Having said that, it is worth recognizing the strategy and way NFHP presented and integrated data to characterize the habitat and this is probably the biggest benefit in my personal work.
Regional is a good scale to make solid points in defense of NFHP efforts. Others are also useful but regional works best in my opinion.
Moving to regional data sets opens up access to additional data not available at the national level, including information on biological response.
Get the landscape conservation cooperative to pick include the 2015 Assessment n the next iteration of the Habitat Blueprint. Assessment has no value as a stand alone product.

Q14 How frequently should the NFHP-supported assessment occur? Please select one:

Answered: 58 Skipped: 7



Answer Choices	Responses	
Every 5 years	53.45%	31
Every 10 years	31.03%	18
More than 10 years	5.17%	3
Other	10.34%	6
Total		58

Q14 - Please explain your answer in more detail:

I don't have an opinion. I am not familiar with these

Every 5-10 years [8 years? :)] seems optimal. Changes to fish habitat and cumulative impacts occur over relatively short periods of time. Assessment <5 years is too much burden, >10 years too infrequent.

A toss-up between "every 5" and "every 10." A 10-year frequency is probably adequate to capture major changes in habitat quality. But data availability and quality changes much faster, and from that perspective an update is probably warranted every 5 years just to somewhat keep up with the pace of data improvement.

But see comments above about relevance...

NA

Five years is a good timeline to be able to recognize changing conditions and address the most at risk habitats.

Perhaps some of the FHPs with a small geographic scope can influence the change in aquatic habitat condition (although at the funding level currently available, I doubt it). The FHPs with a large geographic scope will have little affect on habitat condition over a 5-year time span.

Seems like a reasonable and appropriate period of time in terms of resources/capacity and from a conservation and change on the landscape standpoint.

Only if asked for by the FHPs. This funding could be putting more projects on the ground. It's hard to show that you are moving the needle at the national scale. If the 2010 and 2015 assessments can't be compared with each other, what are we really gaining?

Any longer than 5 years and the data becomes dated and less useful.

As I understand it, at this time the assessments are not comparable - but are rather snap shot indices. By moving to a 10 yr look (other later), I am curious if it would create an opportunity for assessment funding to be focused on helping to improve regional assessments?

This seems like very large, expensive and coordinated effort and by the time the assessments are completed, the reports are written and the outreach has started, it is time to begin the next assessment if it remains on a 5-year timeframe. A 10-year timeframe would be more manageable and would capture slowly changing habitat metrics better.

Every 10 years starting in 2020.

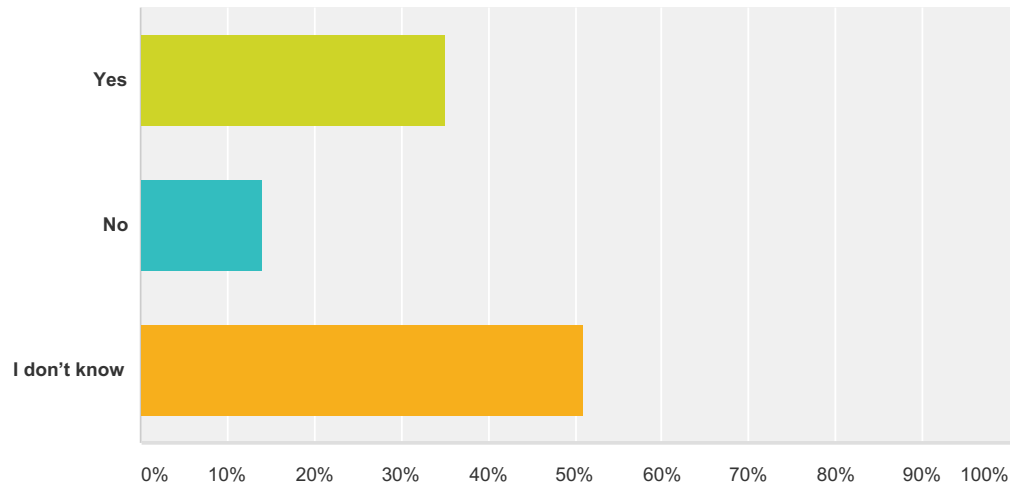
Probably a 20-25 year recurrence would be reasonable.

As long as it uses good data, which they have not.

<p>This seems to be a time frame that would likely identify any changes and allow for updates to the data sets used.</p>
<p>Depends on the intended purpose and how useful the product is - if no one uses the assessment, there is no need to update it.</p>
<p>7 years...5 years results in a continuous assessment process which ends after the next cycle begins. 10 years is too long, so I split the baby</p>
<p>Collecting consistent information at a regular interval could help evaluate trends and patterns over time. Five years is probably a realistic interval.</p>
<p>Stay with the schedule you have developed, unless stakeholders and partners call for more recent information. Any longer than 10 years and it will fall of people's radar and become less useful.</p>
<p>Every 5 yrs seems valid. Lots of work but possible. A good history will help tell the story.</p>
<p>A five-year frequency is too short to 1) have time to deliberately decide on improvements for the next iteration of the assessment and implement; 2) show meaningful changes in habitat condition; and especially 3) show improvements related to habitat conservation activities. Also, the current funding limitations for the national assessment combined with the very long list of requested improvements/additions makes five years not very feasible.</p>
<p>Every 5 years is too frequent to see significant changes in habitats and results in a flurry of work that is constant. Rarely time to do what this survey is doing...ensuring that the assessment is useful.</p>
<p>Other than perhaps being able to bring in additional data layers/data sets for use in the assessment; expecting changes to be detected in 10 years or less I think is far fetched.</p>
<p>I would not do another is stand alone products are the output.</p>

Q15 Could other (non-NFHP) assessments (existing or in development) serve the need? Please select one:

Answered: 57 Skipped: 8



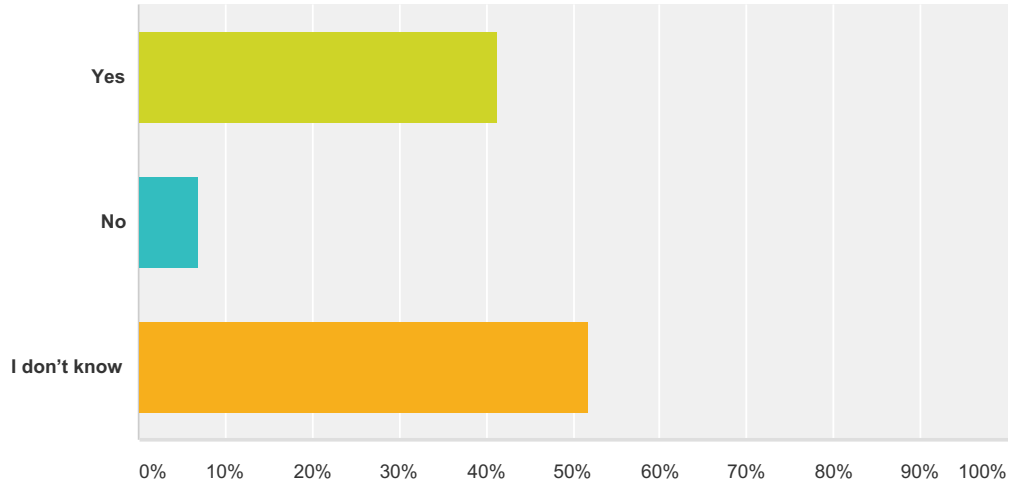
Answer Choices	Responses
Yes	35.09% 20
No	14.04% 8
I don't know	50.88% 29
Total	57

Q15 - If you answered Yes please note the name of the assessment(s):
I don't have an opinion. I am not familiar with these
No specific assessments in mind, but other non-NFHP assessments of fish habitat provides more diverse dialog on impacts and protection/restoration approaches to secure sufficient water and quality habitat.
From my perspective as a state biologist, yes--our State Wildlife Action Plan includes extensive assessment of habitat specifically for Colorado. Frankly, I would be more likely to refer to that in prioritizing work, communicating with decision-makers, etc. But from a region-wide perspective I'm not sure if there are other assessments that could serve the same purpose. If there are I don't know of them.
Noted above...local, regional, or species-specific assessments typically identify limiting factors and serve to inform fish habitat actions and priorities in Idaho. I recognize it would be extremely difficult to combine these smaller scale efforts into a broader layer.
Other assessments and reviews should be referenced for additional information to enhance the assessment. This could be especially useful for including data sets not currently available such as water flow and grazing intensity. Trout Unlimited has a scientifically developed assessment, the Conservation Success Index, which scores a number of habitat and population influences.
Not necessarily for the whole assessment, but we have datasets for smaller areas that are more detailed than the layers used in the national assessment, that if possible could be used when targeting specific areas.
Probably not, but our FHP doesn't need an assessment at the national scale because we are working at the local scale.
Other national and regional efforts are utilizing and leveraging NFHP data products. NFHP is leading the way and is needed to continue national and regional efforts.
We find great value in reviewing the USFS Watershed Condition Assessments
Recovery plans (bull trout), rangewide species assessments and associated databases (westslope and YCT, BCT, redband, etc.), Climate shield model and outputs, Stat fish databases such as MFISH for Montana.
Our existing assessment is working great for the development of strategies and objectives, the monitoring of results, and communicating information to partners.
The Norwest stream temperature and climate change predictor dataset can be very valuable to look at both current and future threats to habitat. This is currently complete for the West Coast, but can be expanded to cover the nation if the interest is strong. The NorWeST webpage hosts stream temperature data and climate scenarios in a variety of user-friendly digital formats for streams and rivers across the western U.S. The temperature database was compiled from hundreds of biologists

<p>and hydrologists working for >100 resource agencies and contains >150,000,000 hourly temperature recordings at >20,000 unique stream sites. Those temperature data were used with spatial statistical network models to develop 30 historical and future climate scenarios at 1-kilometer resolution for >1,000,000 kilometers of stream. http://www.fs.fed.us/rm/boise/AWAE/projects/NorWeST.html</p>
<p>LCC's also have landscape scale assessments, Downstream Strategies landscape scale assessment for Midwest and Great Plains.</p>
<p>National Lakes Assessment would be a useful effort to coordinate with if lakes can be included in future assessments.</p>
<p>Federal assessments of ESA-listed species per critical habitat area. NOAA CCAP assessments of coastal habitat change.</p>
<p>Anything is better for the southwest.</p>
<p>Shouldn't other assessments be incorporated into this product?</p>
<p>National assessment should take local assessments and work to fit them together instead of dictating how the local assessment should be conducted, which often times is not possible or produces ineffectual results</p>
<p>Watershed assessments that identify limiting factors in the face of climate change could be useful.</p>
<p>The goals of each assessment do not necessarily overlap sufficiently</p>
<p>Information & statewide data continually emerge and need to be evaluated</p>
<p>perhaps clean lake assessments conducted by state health departments (or within the DNRs)</p>
<p>Watch for studies currently in process regarding relative similarities of different models.</p>
<p>Probably not at the national scale.</p>
<p>I am aware of other assessments that are doing similar things to the NFHP National Assessment, but not at the same scale and scope. Some of these are within FHPs or contributing agencies. Efforts should be made to coordinate, not duplicate, with existing efforts.</p>
<p>SALCC Habitat Blueprint</p>

Q16 Could other programs or funding mechanisms be leveraged to meet the need (e.g. Landscape Conservation Cooperatives, etc.)? Please select one:

Answered: 58 Skipped: 7



Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	41.38%	24
No	6.90%	4
I don't know	51.72%	30
Total		58

Q16 - If you answered Yes please note the program or funding mechanism:
North Pacific Landscape Conservation Cooperative's conservation planning atlas.
Yes, LCCs seem like a logical avenue to facilitate a national assessment, or at least bolster the data coverage in the areas encompassed by the LCCs.
Possibly. Might be a good way to get regional results generated.
State Wildlife Action Plans, (Alaska/Pacific) Sustainable Salmon Fund, Climate Science Centers
I think this would be an excellent fit with the mission of the LCC's.
LCCs, TNC, and American Rivers
LCC's
We should explore additional funding sources both public and private, with LCC being a good example.
Probably, and a good idea to explore since it is such an effort.
I think the NFHP Board should work with the LCC's and see if funding can be combined.
LCCs are tasked with specific regional priorities, it would be nearly impossible to have all the LCC to conduct a national assessment. That would be outside their missions.
LCCs such as Great Northern LCC and some of the climate and vulnerabitliy work they have done. Could you do less of the National effort and more regional effort or focus by partnering with specific needs of the NFHAP partnerships??
Have had a hard time utilizing Landscape Conservation Coop
It is my understanding that LCCs still do not have a strong aquatic/watershed component to their data. It would be terrific to see better linkages between these two excellent and useful programs.
LCC's, Joint Ventures and other climate change funding sources could provide leverage for this effort.
LCC funding, USGS climate change initiatives
Yes, fish habitat needs to be considered in the context of larger ecological and watershed assessment.
NOAA CCAP and FWS NWI for habitat conditions status.
It's still not clear what the "need" is. If the purpose of the 2010 assessment was to increase awareness and provide an outreach tool, then it was essentially successful. If the purpose of the 2015 Assessment changed (i.e., to inform FHP activities), then it failed miserably because there are far better regional and local assessments available to FHPs. Identifying other programs or funding mechanisms is

impossible until the purpose and need is well defined.
LCCs took our science capabilities, but they can't measure aquatic resources & habitats at the scales they want to use, so aquatics get ignored
LCC work can support climate change and where it may change or influence where habitat restoration should occur.
Basically these assessments are not sufficiently funded to handle their own specific goals and objectives at this time...need dedicated sources of funding for each assessment to be functional
LCCs is a good start.
Besides in-kind services related to Assessment/data review, ADFG-SF does not have the capacity to support future Assessments in terms of funding.
Yes. These programs compete and overlap. Funds from different programs can be applied, as done by EPA, USFS, NOAA, and private sector partners. Base funds can be redirected, too.
Depends on the customer. Have we sought partnership with the LCCs, states, foundations, or others who will use the data?
SALCC Habitat Blueprint

Q17 Is there anything else that you would like to add?

Answered: 20 Skipped: 45

Q17 - Is there anything else that you would like to add?
Open-Ended Response
I apologize for the brief answers on this assessment. The survey and link were only distributed within my station's parent organization at the end of last week before a Federal holiday, so the data request did not reach us until Oct 11 (closing date of the survey).
N/A
Somehow--and this is admittedly extremely difficult--the full geographic extent of some impacts would ideally be factored in. for example, irrigated agriculture is described as a major contributor to groundwater depletion and surface water diversion in northeast Colorado (pg 5 of the "Mountain States" section). That is no doubt true, but additionally, this land use affects water quantity and hydrologic regime on much of the western slope of Colorado, because a lot of the water used for this purpose comes across the Continental Divide through trans-basin diversions. A couple of specific quibbles with the vignettes about plains minnow (pg 8 of Mountain States summary) and FHP activities in Mountain States region (pg 9): --the plains minnow mentions the threat posed by dams in altering flow regime, which is import but perhaps equally or more so is fragmentation itself. As a pelagic spawner the plains minnow needs a substantial minimum reach length in order to persist. --in the FHP activities write-up, item #4, reference is made to 3.4 miles of the "only remaining" Greenback cutthroat trout habitat. This is misleading--this stream was (but is no longer) the only *occupied* habitat, but it is far from the only potential Greenback habitat and indeed CPW and the Greenback Recovery Team have completed several re-introductions.
WNTI has to much overhead with the partnerships. There isn't enough money going on the ground. Also, As a local office who ends up tasked with developing and maintaining agreements, it is very frustrating that 1.) we have no say as to what project are being submitted or funded and 2.) Our time and workload is not being considered when funding projects. On the ground biologist with a strong knowledge of the region would be better suited to make the funding recommendations.
NA
Thanks!
I would have really liked to see this funding go to our FHPs that don't receive any funding right now. I'm not sure the FWS directed the NFHP board to do the 2015 assessment.
NFHP is doing a great job. I hope to see the assessment live on over the next decade.
No
Not really.

EPA is using the NFHP 2015 HCI data in its nationally available Recovery Potential Screening statewide tools (www.epa.gov/rps) and as the habitat subindex metric for its Preliminary Healthy Watersheds Assessments for the lower 48 states. This data fills a gap no one else fills at national scale. Some states also have used it within multi-metric analyses to set restoration and protection priorities for impaired waters.

Both national and regional habitat assessments are useful for our work and we should continue at both scales.

Thanks! I realize the effort that went into the assessment and believe that they are a useful product for the partnerships.

We have other Divisions within TWRA that may have used the Assessments more than our Fisheries Division. Please make sure Bill.Reeves@tn.gov gets to contribute to the survey as well.

waste of time

NFHAP datasets and tools could be useful to evaluate habitat condition, comparing conditions in areas with many active restoration projects with conditions in other areas

I can't underscore enough how strongly I and my agency feel about this. I would rather see you stop producing this report than to put it out again with the west nearly completely blue/purple. It makes it hard for us to secure funding and really hurts the fish resources here. I understand that this may have been necessary for the first pass of the report, but to continue this misleading approach to a second report is really problematic. The strong disclaimer is appreciated but doesn't make up for the missing data.

no

Thanks for putting out the survey!

I've only been a rep since July, so my responses to your questions has been limited. I can see that one of my tasks will be to assure that my organization is aware of these resources.

National Fish Habitat Assessment Products

- [2010 National Habitat Assessment Report](http://www.fishhabitat.org/files/uploads/fishhabitatreport.pdf)
(<http://www.fishhabitat.org/files/uploads/fishhabitatreport.pdf>)
- 2010 National Fish Habitat Partnership Data System [Data and Map Download](http://ecosystems.usgs.gov/fishhabitat/nfhap_download.jsp)
(http://ecosystems.usgs.gov/fishhabitat/nfhap_download.jsp)
- 2010 National Fish Habitat Partnership Data System [Map Viewers](http://ecosystems.usgs.gov/fishhabitat/nfhap_mapviewer.jsp)
(http://ecosystems.usgs.gov/fishhabitat/nfhap_mapviewer.jsp)
- [2015 National Fish Habitat Assessment Report](http://assessment.fishhabitat.org/)
(<http://assessment.fishhabitat.org/>)

National Fish Habitat Partnership 2015 National Fish Habitat Assessment Strategy

ASSESSMENT PURPOSE

The National Fish Habitat Action Plan (Action Plan) calls for a status report on all fish habitat within the United States, with the initial report prepared in 2010 and every 5 years thereafter. The purpose of the National Fish Habitat Assessment (Assessment) is to provide a comprehensive analysis of the status of aquatic habitats at the national and regional scales to facilitate planning and success measurement by the National Fish Habitat Partnership Board (Board) and Fish Habitat Partnerships (Partnerships). The Assessment is designed to complement and support assessment efforts by the Partnerships along with providing national perspectives on fish habitat condition.

The Assessment will: provide information on the relative condition of aquatic systems; identify both intact and degraded aquatic habitats; clearly define key disturbance or stress factors; and illustrate the scope and effectiveness of habitat conservation activities overtime. The results of the Assessment will be a key tool for both the Board and Partnerships to achieve the vision (side box) outlined in the National Fish Habitat Action Plan. In addition to providing access to assessment products, the data system supporting the Assessment will ultimately serve as a repository for both the Board's and Partnerships' assessment input data, detailed geospatial results from the Board's and Partnerships' assessment analyses, and Partnership conservation project descriptions, making these data readily available to Partnerships and other stakeholders for further use and analysis.

LONG TERM ASSESSMENT VISION

The long term vision for the National Assessment is to incorporate all available and relevant landscape and process information into a spatial framework and work towards including measureable process-related data and habitat condition scores for all United States aquatic habitats from the mountains downstream to the continental shelf. The six processes (Hydrology, Connectivity, Water Quality, Material Recruitment, Geomorphology, and Energy Flow) that control habitat quality are detailed in the Science and Data Framework Document along with potential variables that represent these processes. Process variables to be eventually incorporated by the Assessment will be those that are directly related to fish habitat maintenance and development and can be manipulated or influenced by Partnership actions. These variables are also sensitive to the changing landscape baselines attributable to climate change and land use changes.

PROGRESS TO DATE

This unprecedented effort successfully met an initial milestone in 2010 with the completion of the first national assessment by Michigan State University (inland) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) (marine), with oversight from the Board's National Science and Data Committee (Committee).

The 2010 National Fish Habitat Assessment successfully:

- developed a geospatial framework for the Lower 48 states based upon the 1:100,000 National Hydrography Database + (NHD+)
- developed the 1:24,000 NHD for Hawaii and the initial geospatial framework for Alaska and marine areas;
- developed a geospatial framework for estuaries in the contiguous United States and Southeast Alaska
- attributed the geospatial framework with available habitat-related national databases;
- developed analytical approaches for condition analysis; and
- conducted stressor analyses for inland habitats in the contiguous United States, Alaska, and Hawaii, and for estuarine habitats in the contiguous United States and Southeast Alaska.

The 2010 Assessment provides an initial, though incomplete, view of aquatic habitat from a very coarse national perspective and lays the foundation for future efforts. The 2010 Assessment has clear and acknowledged gaps that did not allow detailed habitat condition analysis to be conducted as a result of the lack of detailed process data measured in a consistent manner on a national scale. Gaps were particularly noted in connectivity, hydrology, and water quality processes, and the unavailability of fish data precluded finer resolution analysis of estuarine information.

ASSESSMENT COMPONENTS AND PRODUCTS OF THE 2015 ASSESSMENT

The 2015 Assessment will address the identified gaps of the 2010 Assessment, where possible, and will work to more strongly relate the national landscape scale assessment to fisheries management or Partnership objectives to facilitate direct implementation at Partnership, regional or local planning. A series of demonstration projects will be compiled and evaluated to help advance this approach. These efforts will result from coordinated activity between the Committee and willing Partnerships, and will represent both inland and marine areas distributed across the United States. Some potential example demonstration projects that may be considered include: incorporation of springs and ciénegas information and analysis (possibly in cooperation with the Desert Fish Habitat Partnership); broader analysis of riparian zone condition using the Southeastern Aquatic Resources Partnership methodology; attribution and analysis of fine scale water quality data (possibly in cooperation with Southeastern Aquatic Resources Partnership or the Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture); incorporation of water withdrawal locations, data and analyses into the Assessment (possibly in cooperation with the Western Native Trout Initiative or Hawaii Fish Habitat Partnership); and attributing and analyzing coastal navigation projects and hardened structures (possibly in cooperation with the Atlantic Coast Fish Habitat Partnership, Great Lakes Basin Fish Habitat Partnership or the Pacific Marine & Estuarine Fish Habitat Partnership).

The lists that follow identify tasks necessary to complete the 2015 assessment in priority order for all inland and coastal assessments which will be conducted in parallel. The number of tasks that will actually be completed will depend on the budgetary and technical resources available to the Committee and in cooperation with interested partners and/or Fish Habitat Partnerships.

Inland

1. Catalog all FHP assessments completed or underway
2. Refine and update 2010 Assessment by addressing identified data gaps, attributing new fish data including available and appropriate anadromous/catadromous/diadromous fish data, and incorporating improvements to the analytical approach
3. Add new national connectivity analysis
4. Determine how to incorporate process data using FHP demonstration projects
5. Add socioeconomic data to spatial framework
6. Add national hydrology analysis using existing stream gauging information
7. Attribute lakes and reservoir data to Assessment geospatial framework
8. Attribute AK anadromous fish catalog data into Alaska spatial framework
9. Attribute fish and selected invertebrate data into Hawaiian spatial framework
10. Attribute local catchment data for Southeast Alaska into spatial framework
11. Develop and incorporate fish-stressor analyses for Alaska and Hawaii
12. Develop and incorporate downstream summaries of landscape condition at the reach scale
13. Incorporate available fisheries management and FHP objectives into the spatial framework.
14. Attribute springs, ciénegas, water withdrawal, instream flow prescriptions, and water use data into spatial framework as feasible.
15. Attribute additional water quality data
16. Attribute additional mining and energy development data

Marine (includes estuaries, nearshore, and offshore)

1. Catalog all FHP assessments completed or underway
2. Improve analytical basis of marine assessment to inland standards by incorporating all available fish and shellfish data and stressor relationships and addressing additional gaps
3. Incorporate additional spatial framework information for estuaries in Alaska
4. Incorporate additional spatial framework information for estuaries and nearshore-marine habitats in Hawaii
5. Develop an initial assessment of nearshore-marine habitats
6. Develop an initial assessment of offshore-marine habitats
7. Determine how to incorporate process data using FHP demonstration projects
8. Add socioeconomic data to spatial framework
9. Incorporate available fisheries management and FHP objectives into the spatial framework.
10. Develop inland-marine system scoring linkages
11. Incorporate the final Great Lakes assessment into overall Assessment

12. Attribute additional water quality data
13. Attribute additional mining and energy development data

Inland Spatial Framework and Assessment:

The overall goal for the inland component of the 2015 Assessment is to refine and fill the identified gaps in the 2010 Assessment. This effort will include the incorporation of natural lakes (> 10 acres) and reservoirs along with the appropriate lake and reservoir-sheds needed to allow Assessment work to continue on these waters.

Key milestones for this assessment component are:

- By 2012 – Catalog all existing FHP assessments and determine how to best coordinate efforts between the Board and Partnerships assessment work (Science and Data Committee)
- By 2013 – The assessment will refine and update fisheries, aquatic nuisance and invasive species, dam inventory, land conservation status, and water quality status (focusing on potentially using Section 303d listings and NPDES violation data) information as data become available. Improved river fragmentation analyses and national calculation of fragmentation metrics will be completed. Demonstration project areas will be identified with interested Partnerships. Approaches to refine the marine-inland linkages between the inland and marine assessments will be evaluated.
- By 2014 – The assessment will refine habitat models and system scoring with additional available information collected and organized. Demonstration process projects will begin with interested Partnerships and focused work within specific regions on key resources will be conducted. The assessment will continue to explore approaches for developing marine-inland linkages between the assessments.
- By 2015 – The assessment will delineate lake catchments and attribute landscape scale information for natural lakes for waters over 10 acres that are not in the NHD+ network into the assessment spatial framework. With the assistance of the Reservoir Partnership, reservoir and reservoir catchments for reservoirs over 250 acres will be incorporated into the assessment spatial system. Demonstration projects will be conducted with Partnerships. The assessment will complete incorporating the new data detailed above to fill outstanding data gaps, and refine habitat models and system scoring with all available information. The assessment will allow for suggested refinements for future assessments to be recommended.

If additional resources become available for the Inland Assessment, the following areas will be addressed:

- By 2013 – Attribute and incorporate available information on small dams and culverts into spatial framework to improve connectivity analysis.
- By 2014 – Downstream summaries of landscape conditions will be summarized for stream reaches, providing information at a spatial scale relevant important to

- anadromous/catadromous/diadromous fishes. Available fisheries management and Partnership objectives will be incorporated into the spatial framework.
- By 2015 – Attribute and incorporate springs, ciénegas, water withdrawal, instream flow prescriptions, and water use data into spatial framework and use these data to refine the hydrology analysis. The assessment will also identify river and stream reaches where the magnitude and timing of river flows have been altered if sufficient and appropriate data is available. The assessment will incorporate new and updated national datasets to include attributing the 2006 National Land Cover Dataset and develop analytical methods to examine temporal landscape variable changes. Incorporate additional water quality, mining and energy development data into the assessment and refine assessment analyses.

Marine Spatial Framework and Assessment:

The overall goal for the 2015 Marine Assessment is to strategically address the identified gaps in the 2010 Marine Assessment, particularly the lack of a fish-stressor analysis in the 2010 estuarine assessment. This will be addressed by refining the assessment methods and incorporating fish and shellfish (where available) abundance and diversity data for the contiguous United States in a manner similar that used in the Inland Assessment. Additional gaps will be met by adding additional datasets on estuarine physical habitat characteristics, anthropogenic stressors, and biological responses. As time and resources allow, the Marine Assessment will be extended into near shore- and offshore-marine waters to provide an initial habitat condition analysis of these habitats. Another identified gap was the lack of consistent methodology between the contiguous United States and Southeast Alaska portions of the 2010 Marine Assessment, and a lack of any data or analysis for the rest of Alaska’s coastal areas. To address this, the Marine Assessment Team will develop a geospatial framework for estuarine habitats across all of Alaska and develop a refined methodology that applies to all United States estuarine habitats.

Key milestones for this assessment component are:

- By 2012 - Catalog all existing Partnership Assessments and determine how to best coordinate efforts between the Board and Partnerships assessment work (Science and Data Committee)
- By 2013 – Refine the existing geospatial framework for estuaries in the contiguous United States and complete initial development of a geospatial framework for all estuaries across Alaska. A pilot project, illustrating the proposed new fish stressor methodology and regional assessment approach, will be conducted for estuaries in the Gulf of Mexico, including methodological refinements as necessary. Begin data collection and processing to support additional regional estuarine assessments, including datasets on fish/shellfish abundance and diversity, physical habitat, anthropogenic stress, and biological response. Explore methodologies to improve linkages between the inland and marine components of the National Assessment.

- By 2014 – Continue to develop refined estuarine assessments for additional regions using the methodology developed and refined during the pilot project for Gulf of Mexico estuaries. Continue to work on improving connections between the inland and marine components of the assessment and incorporate information into assessment as available.
- By 2015 – Complete estuarine fish stressor analyses for all regions in the contiguous United States and Alaska (as time and resources allow and where sufficient data exists). Assemble individual regional components of estuarine assessment together to form national assessment and address any inconsistencies or potential issues with interpretation. Ensure accuracy of results at the national scale.

If additional resources become available for the Coastal Assessment, the following areas will be addressed:

- By 2013 - Refine the existing geospatial framework for near shore- and offshore-marine waters for the contiguous United States and Alaska. Acquire available habitat and fisheries data for nearshore- and offshore-marine waters.
- By 2014 - Begin development of nearshore and offshore marine assessment strategy including incorporation of available fish, shellfish and habitat data into spatial framework and develop analytical methods.
- By 2015 - Complete initial nearshore and offshore-marine assessment. The Marine Assessment will incorporate new and updated national datasets to include attributing the 2011 National Land Cover Dataset (depending on availability) and develop analytical methods to examine temporal landscape variable changes on marine habitat. Incorporate additional water quality, mining and energy development data into the assessment and refine assessment analyses.

Great Lakes Spatial Framework and Assessment

The overall goal for the 2015 Great Lakes Assessment is to complete an initial inshore assessment for the Great Lakes to include a spatial framework and a stressor level analysis using all available assessment information. Currently, multiple partial assessments are either completed or close to completion. If resources become available and with the assistance of the Great Lakes Basin Fish Habitat Partnership and other Great Lakes partners (i.e. Great Lakes Fishery Trust and the Great Lakes Fishery Commission), an initial composite habitat assessment will be developed by 2015 to include an initial linkage approach between inland and Great Lakes systems. With additional resources, attribute and incorporate socioeconomic data into the spatial framework for the Great Lakes.

Inland Alaska Spatial Framework and Assessment

The overall goal for the 2015 Inland Alaska Assessment is to refine the 2010 Assessment by incorporating fish data into analysis and to continue to fill existing identified information gaps. We expect progress to be impaired by the lack of a spatial framework

similar to the NHDPlus, except in localized areas around Anchorage and potentially southeast Alaska.

Key milestones for this assessment component are:

- By 2012 - Catalog all existing AK FHP assessments and determine how to best coordinate efforts between the Board and Partnerships assessment work (Science and Data Committee)
- By 2013 – The assessment will begin to incorporate Alaska anadromous fish catalog data into the spatial framework where possible following the guidance of Alaska Partnerships. Additional planning will be done to determine the extent of local catchments that can be determined in Southeastern Alaska and initial work started in this area. Demonstration project areas will be identified with interested Partnerships with an emphasis on characterizing connectivity.
- By 2014 – Work will be completed on developing local catchments for Southeast Alaska, where data are available. The incorporation and attribution of Alaska anadromous fish catalog data into the spatial framework will be completed. Initial fish-stressor analyses will be completed and refinement initiated. Evaluation of demonstration projects will begin with interested Partnerships.
- By 2015 – Fish analyses will be completed. Results from demonstration projects will be compiled.
- By April 2015 – An updated and refined Inland Alaska Assessment to include demonstration projects will be completed.

If additional resources become available for the Inland Alaska Assessment, the following areas will be addressed:

- By 2013 – Begin development of additional demonstration projects with Alaskan FHPs to focus on climate change information. Attribute and incorporate new data sets to fill outstanding data gaps. Begin development of marine-inland linkage work for Alaskan systems.
- By 2014 - Complete incorporation of socioeconomic data into spatial framework and develop analytical methods for use of these data. The assessment will continue to incorporate new data to fill outstanding data gaps with potentially localized work on hydrology. Continue work on refining marine-inland linkage work for Alaskan systems. Incorporate all available fisheries management and Partnership objectives into the spatial framework will be completed.
- By 2015 - The refined inland-marine linkage will be completed and incorporated into the Assessment. The assessment will continue to incorporate new data to fill outstanding data gaps.

Hawaii Inland and Marine Spatial Framework and Assessment

The overall goal for the 2015 Hawaiian Assessment is to refine the 2010 Assessment by incorporating a fish-stressor analysis, linking inland and marine systems, and to continue to fill existing identified information gaps using the existing 1:24,000 NHD spatial

framework. By 2015, the Hawaiian Assessment will also develop a demonstration project with the Hawaiian Fish Habitat Partnership (HFHP) to determine the best way to incorporate detailed process-level data at smaller geographic scales with a focus on connectivity and hydrology data.

Key milestones for this assessment component are:

- By 2012 - Catalog all existing HI FHP assessments and determine how to best coordinate efforts between the Board and HI FHP assessment work (Science and Data Committee)
- By 2013 – In cooperation with the HFHP, the assessment will incorporate fish and selected invertebrate data for inland systems into the spatial framework and will develop a plan for refining scores based on a biologically-driven classification of Hawaiian stream reaches. Continue to incorporate new habitat data to fill outstanding data gaps, particularly water withdrawal information where available. Identify demonstration projects with the HFHP.
- By 2014 – Complete the initial fish-stressor analysis for inland systems, and develop approaches that can be considered for initial inland-coastal linkage products. Continue to incorporate new habitat, fish and invertebrate data to fill outstanding data gaps. Complete initial HI FHP demonstration process projects.
- By 2015 – Complete fish-stressor analyses. The assessment will continue to incorporate new habitat (particularly water withdrawal information), fish and invertebrate data to fill outstanding data gaps. Refinements will be made to the demonstration process projects with the HFHP.
- By April 2015 – In consultation with the HFHP, complete the updated and refined Hawaiian Assessment to include demonstration projects.

If additional resources become available for the Hawaiian Assessment, the following areas will be addressed:

- By 2013 – A plan for completing a marine spatial framework (focusing on estuaries and priority reef areas) and developing linkages between inland and marine assessments will be completed in concert with the HFHP. Attribute and incorporate new data sets to fill outstanding data gaps.
- By 2014 - Complete an initial marine spatial framework. Continue to incorporate new data to fill outstanding data gaps along with the initial work to examine riparian buffer zones. Incorporate all available fisheries management and Partnership objectives into the spatial framework will be completed. Develop a plan for completing the marine coastal assessment (focusing on estuaries and priority reef areas) in concert with the HFHP.
- By 2015 – Complete initial marine spatial framework, an initial marine assessment, riparian buffer analysis, and initial inland-marine linkages for incorporation into the Hawaiian Assessment. The refined inland-marine linkage will be completed and incorporated into the Assessment. The assessment will continue to incorporate new data to fill outstanding data gaps.

Socioeconomic Assessment

At the October 2011 Board Meeting, the Science and Data Committee was directed to develop potential approaches for including socioeconomic variables into the Assessment. To appropriately include such information into the assessment, additional expertise is needed along with a new strategy with a result to fully incorporate socioeconomic data into the 2020 Assessment. The 2015 Assessment will develop and complete a series of demonstration projects to determine the appropriate variables and methodology to incorporate these data into future assessments. This component cannot be completed with the currently available resources of the assessment.

With the provision of additional resources, the key milestones for this assessment component are:

- By 2012 - Catalog all existing FHP socioeconomic assessments and determine how to best coordinate efforts between the Board and Partnerships socioeconomic assessment work (Science and Data Committee)
- By June 2013 – The Science and Data Committee will identify and engage socioeconomic expert(s) to assist in guiding this part of the Assessment. A literature review and a review of identified FHP projects in which socioeconomic have been incorporated will be completed. Demonstration projects will be identified and plans for evaluating the demonstration projects with interested Partnerships will be developed.
- By 2015 – Complete the evaluation of the demonstration projects and develop a strategy for incorporating socioeconomic information into future assessments for Board approval. Attribute and incorporate socioeconomic data into the spatial framework.
- By April 2015 – Complete a report on the demonstration projects to include the socioeconomic strategy for future Assessments. Complete incorporation of socioeconomic data into the inland and marine spatial frameworks and develop analytical methods for use of these data.

Immediate Next Steps

July 2012

- Finalize the 2015 Assessment Strategy

October 2012

- Estimate costs for each milestone, assessment compilation and editing, and printing costs.
- Secure partner commitments.

Working Title: NFHP Document of Interdependence

Introduction

The National Fish Habitat Partnership (NFHP) is made up of three distinct components: the National Fish Habitat Board, the (20) individual Fish Habitat Partnerships, and partners which include federal, state, local, public, and private entities and individuals. While each of these distinct components have the freedom to act independently of one another, the actions of one affects the actions of another, and in this way the success of any one of these components is dependent upon the success of the other two – they are in fact -- interdependent. Figure 1 provides a graphic representation of these relationships.

Purpose

This document is intended to acknowledge the interdependence of the major components that make-up NFHP, and to describe and clarify the current roles, responsibilities, and relationships between 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.

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.

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. 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 National Fish Habitat Partnership or a Fish Habitat Partnership to promote its mission. Examples 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 (National Fish Habitat 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 National Fish Habitat Partnership.

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 and riparian restoration projects.

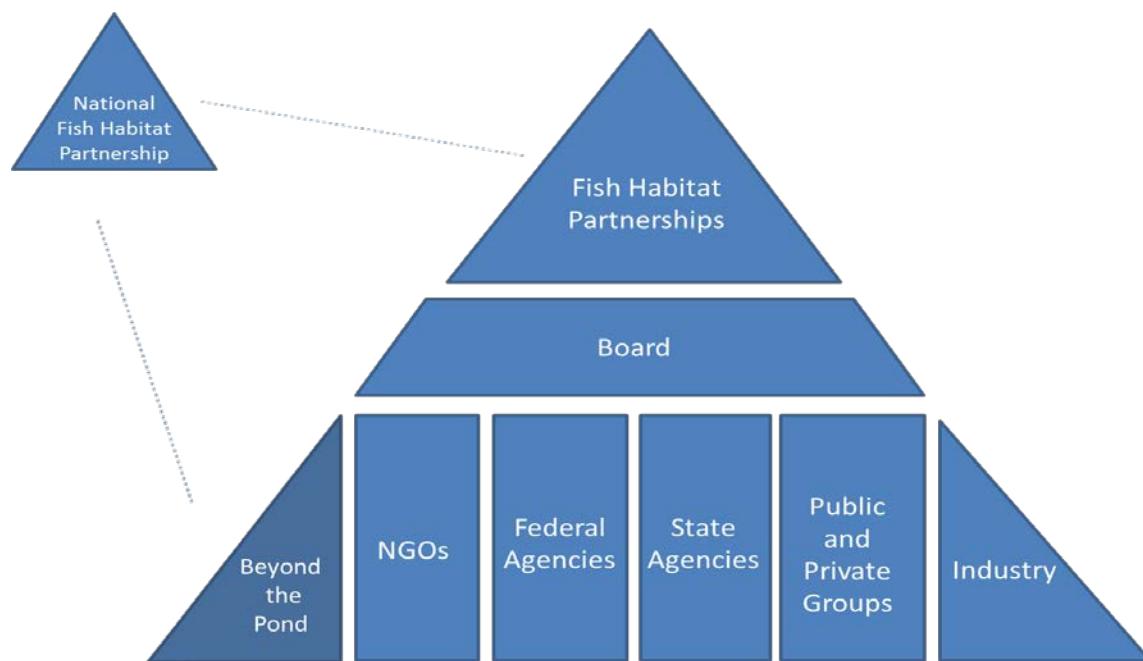


Figure 1. NFHP is made up of several different components (i.e. partners) that collectively form a solid foundation supporting the FHPs. Therefore, each component (i.e. partner) has an important role in supporting and facilitating implementation of the Action Plan.

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

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

¹ Each of the component agencies, bureaus, and offices of the Departments [DOI, DOA, and DOC] 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 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 powerful 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.

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 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

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

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 Departments of DOI, DOA, and DOC]

- Promote collaborative, science-based conservation by ensuring that the component agencies, bureaus, and offices 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

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

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

4.4 State Agency

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

5 Funding

5.1 National Fish Habitat Board

- Develop criteria for funding and related resources.
- 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.
- Establish national partnerships or other arrangements that provide funding and other resources to the FHPs and other efforts of the Plan.
- Develop processes to prioritize and deliver National Fish Habitat Action Plan funds to the FHPs.
-

5.2 Fish Habitat Partnerships

- Leverage funding from sources that support local and regional partnerships.

5.3 Federal Agency¹

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

5.4 State Agency

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

- Charitable, educational, and scientific purposes related to the conservation, protection, and restoration of fish and aquatic habitats in the United States through the National Fish Habitat Partnership or the FHP chapters recognized by this corporation, including, for such purposes, the making of distributions.
- Conserve, protect, and restore fish and aquatic habitat in the United States by supporting the National Fish Habitat Partnership and regional Fish Habitat Partnerships.

- In all activities and respects, the Corporation will advance the National Fish Habitat Partnership and the regional Fish Habitat Partnerships. In no manner may the funds raised by the Corporation be used to support any organization that is not a member of the National Fish Habitat Partnership or a Fish Habitat Partnership approved by the National Fish Habitat Board.

6 Reporting

6.1 National Fish Habitat Board

- Develop 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 National Fish Habitat Action Plan. The report shall be completed in 2010, and every 5 years after.

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 with other programs within one’s own agency, with other federal agencies, and with state agencies.
- Report to the Federal Caucus on issues NFHP/FHPs are facing.

6.4 State Agency

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

7 Partnership Recognition and Development

7.1 National Fish Habitat Board

- Develop appropriate policies and guidance for recognizing Fish Habitat Partnerships.
- 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.

7.2 Fish Habitat Partnerships

7.3 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..
- Federal agencies will do their part to promote NFHP within their own agencies, including news articles, presentations, webinars, awards, and promoting more collaboration or funding opportunities.

▪

7.4 State Agency

7.5 Non-Government Organization

- Selected NGOs shall participate as members of the National Fish Habitat Board.
- Work closely with FHPs on project development and implementation where feasible.

7.6 Beyond the Pond

8 Performance Evaluations

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

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

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.

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

- May lead or help with implementation at the local or watershed scale: permitting, project design, data management, contracting, monitoring and other technical assistance.

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

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

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

Source Material

- 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 Nation Fish Habitat Conservation Through Partnerships Act. Specifically, S. 659 –Crapo Amendment #1. Dated January 19, 2016.
- Policies and Guidance for Fish Habitat Partnerships. Approved by the National Fish Habitat Board, October 8, 2008.
- National Fish Habitat Action Plan, 2nd Edition. Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, Washington, DC. 40 pp. 2012.
- 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.
- Articles of Incorporation of the National Fish Habitat Fund, Inc., May 27, 2014.
- Bylaws of the National Fish Habitat Fund, Inc.

Title: Multistate Conservation Grant Program Update

Desired outcomes:

- Board awareness of 2016 Multi-State Grant
- Board awareness of 2017 Multi-State Conservation Grant Program Application
- Board discussion of Multi-State Conservation Grant for future years

Background:

In 2015, the FHPs under the National Fish Habitat Partnership agreed to a 3-year collaborative approach to applying for Multistate Grant Funding through the Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies (AFWA).

The first grant in this 3-year approach was awarded during the 2016 Grant cycle, at \$86,000. This is expected to receive an extension, as only one FHP has spent funding toward a project, (WNTI/DFHP) Weber River, UT collaboration.

The National Conservation Need (NCN) established by the Fisheries and Water Resources Policy Committee of AFWA for the 2017 Grant period is: Strengthening the National Fish Habitat Partnership. Two FHP LOIs were submitted under this NCN:

- 1) a regional application from 13 FHPs
- 2) application from the Reservoir Fish Habitat Partnership

Application #1 (Regional FHP Application) received a request from the AFWA National Grants Committee to submit a full proposal and application #2 (Reservoir Application) did not receive a request for further application. The Regional FHP Application, however, was asked to request a lower amount of funding in the full proposal application period. The Regional FHP Application was originally seeking \$375,000 for the 2017 Grant period. The amount reflected in the full application was reduced to \$150,000 at the request of the National Grants Committee and staff, and the grant application was voted on and approved at a funding level of \$143,711.87.

The 2018 Grant cycle would be the final year of the three-year proposal that the FHPs agreed upon.

Briefing Book Materials:

- Tab 5b – 2017 NFHP Multi-State Grant Proposal

2017 Multistate Conservation Grant Program

Grant Proposal

Executive Summary

(Limit – 2 Pages)

1. **Project Title:** Science and Conservation collaboration through the National Fish Habitat Partnership
2. **Full Legal Name of Organization:** National Fish Habitat Board. If awarded, the grant will be administered on behalf of the National Fish Habitat Board by the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, 1100 First Street NE, Suite 825, Washington DC, 20002
3. **Organization Information:**
 - a. Applicant Classification: 501(c)6
 - b. Nongovernmental Organization Classification (if applicable):
4. **Lead Applicant's Contact Information:**

Mr. Tom Champeau, Chief (Inland Fisheries), Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission
Chair, National Fish Habitat Board
c/o Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies
1100 First Street NE, Suite 825
Washington, DC 20002
Email: tom.champeau@myfwc.com
Phone Number: 850-556-7684
5. **Name and Affiliation of Co-Investigator(s)/Partner(s) (if applicable):**

Ryan Roberts (AFWA)
Gary Whelan (MI DNR)
6. **Project Length:** 3 years. Will re-apply for year 2&3 funding. (2017 marks year 2 of 3)
7. ***Funding Requested:**

\$143,711.87 (seeking in 2017)
Seeking in 2018 (\$300,000)
3 year total: (\$536,000)

*2016 funding granted at \$86,000 of \$300,000 requested.
8. **Estimate of Partnership Funds to be Leveraged (if applicable):** \$1,000,000
9. **Funding Source.**
 - a. Funding Source:
 - b. Percent WR:
 - c. Percent SFR: 100%

10. **State Benefit Requirement:** The scope of this grant award through our Fish Habitat Partnerships would cover 30 states.
11. **Primary National Conservation Need (NCN) Addressed:** NCN 2: Strengthening the National Fish Habitat Partnership
12. **Terms and Conditions.** *Use of MSCGP Grants - All applicants must ensure that their proposed project does not fund, in whole or in part, an activity that promotes or encourages opposition to the regulated hunting or trapping of wildlife or taking of sport fish.*

I agree with the above terms and conditions.

13. Summary Statement (200 words or less):

Project Narrative
(Limit – 10 Pages)

Title Science and Conservation collaboration through the National Fish Habitat Partnership

Objective(s)

Priority information needs identified by FHPs vary across regions, several of which this project will help address. In Hawaii this grant will support improving hydrography data, building upon an assessment of island estuaries and developing freshwater flow and sediment yield variability on nearshore coastal habitats. In the West, this grant will strengthen capacity for the Western Native Trout Initiative and Desert Fish Habitat Partnership through construction of quality assessments and strategic planning helping each FHP identify conservation priorities, including those that overlap between the partnerships. The assessments will also elevate the use of science information in project selection by enhancing science and data coordination and information sharing among the two partnerships and between the two partnerships and the NFHP National Science and Data Committee and support the 2020 assessment of fish habitat. Overall, this grant will substantially improve data resources that are required set restoration and protection priorities for aquatic habitats across the U.S. This project would address several of those needs, ensuring the continued progress that the FHPs are making on the ground and enhanced greatly by recent Multistate Conservation Grants awards.

Through regional collaboration among FHPs, this grant will:

- Collectively advance FHP habitat assessments through identification of mutual data needs, data acquisition and landscape-level analysis for the benefit of fish, mussels, and other aquatic animals;
- Provide region and system-specific fish population, habitat, and human impact data to fill regional data gaps and to assist the Board's Science & Data Committee in the continual improvement of the National Status of Fish Habitats Report;

- Help achieve conservation results through strategic actions that improve the ecological condition of intact systems, rehabilitate natural processes in systems currently degraded, or prevent the decline of intact and healthy systems leading to better fish habitat conditions, increased numbers of self-sustaining fish populations, and increased fishing opportunities; and
- Allow further critical collaboration to occur among FHPs on projects and initiatives, especially in regions with shared habitat and species interests amongst partners.

Outcomes/Benefits

The National Fish Habitat Partnership brings a focused and coordinated approach to conserving, rehabilitating, and enhancing the nation's aquatic habitats under the objectives of the National Fish Habitat Action Plan. This proposal strengthens that approach by linking the oversight responsibility of the Board and the operational responsibility of the FHPs to achieve national and regional science and data driven conservation goals.

In general, this project will support activities of the Fish Habitat Partnerships that will help to achieve four of the objectives in the National Fish Habitat Action Plan, 2nd Edition:

1. *Achieve measurable habitat conservation results* through strategic actions of Fish Habitat Partnerships that improve ecological condition, restore natural processes, or prevent the decline of intact and healthy systems leading to better fish habitat conditions and increased fishing opportunities.
2. *Broaden the community of support for fish habitat conservation* by increasing fishing opportunities, fostering the participation of local communities – especially young people – in conservation activities, and raising public awareness of the role healthy fish habitats play in the quality of life and well-being of local communities.
3. *Fill gaps in the National Fish Habitat Assessment* and its associated database to empower strategic conservation action supported by broadly available scientific information, and integrate socio-economic data in the analysis to improve people's lives in a manner consistent with fish habitat conservation goals.
4. *Communicate the conservation outcomes* produced collectively by Fish Habitat Partnerships, as well as new opportunities and voluntary approaches for conserving fish habitat, to the public and conservation partners.

Problem Statement

Healthy waterways and thriving fish populations are vital to the well-being of American society, providing clean water, food, and recreation. They are important for less tangible reasons as well, as anyone who has fished a tranquil stream or paddled a salty bay can attest. Healthy waters sustain their ecological functions and resilience while meeting the social and economic needs of human society. Unfortunately, in many places around the United States, fish and the habitats on which they depend are in decline. This is a particular concern to the 48 million recreational anglers who pursue fish and to many others who depend upon fish and shellfish for sustenance and commerce. Revenue from recreational and commercial fisheries added more than \$125 billion to our nation's economy in 2006. Almost 40 percent of the nation's freshwater fish species are considered at risk or vulnerable to extinction. Habitat loss is the most common cause for extinction of freshwater fish in the United States over the past century. Many saltwater fish

are also in decline due to habitat degradation; Congress declared in 1997 that one of the greatest long-term threats to the viability of commercial and recreational fisheries is the continuing loss of marine, estuarine, and other aquatic habitats.

Experience

Since 2006, The Partnership has supported 599 projects benefiting fish habitat in all 50 states. The Partnership works to conserve fish habitat nationwide, leveraging federal, state, tribal, and private funding resources to achieve the greatest impact on fish populations through priority conservation projects of 20 regionally-based Fish Habitat Partnerships.

Approach

Galvanized into action by continuing losses of aquatic habitat, an unprecedented coalition of anglers, conservation groups, scientists, state and federal agencies, and industry leaders forged the National Fish Habitat Action Plan in 2006. The Action Plan is an investment strategy for making the most effective use of habitat conservation dollars and achieving real gains in aquatic habitat quality and quantity by protecting, restoring, and enhancing key fisheries habitats.

Outcomes/Benefits

The National Fish Habitat Partnership brings a focused and coordinated approach to conserving, rehabilitating, and enhancing the nation's aquatic habitats under the objectives of the National Fish Habitat Action Plan. This proposal strengthens that approach by linking the oversight responsibility of the Board and the operational responsibility of the FHPs to achieve national and regional science and data driven conservation goals.

In general, this project will support activities of the Fish Habitat Partnerships that will help to achieve four of the objectives in the National Fish Habitat Action Plan, 2nd Edition:

1. *Achieve measurable habitat conservation results* through strategic actions of Fish Habitat Partnerships that improve ecological condition, restore natural processes, or prevent the decline of intact and healthy systems leading to better fish habitat conditions and increased fishing opportunities.
2. *Broaden the community of support for fish habitat conservation* by increasing fishing opportunities, fostering the participation of local communities – especially young people – in conservation activities, and raising public awareness of the role healthy fish habitats play in the quality of life and well-being of local communities.
3. *Fill gaps in the National Fish Habitat Assessment* and its associated database to empower strategic conservation action supported by broadly available scientific information, and integrate socio-economic data in the analysis to improve people's lives in a manner consistent with fish habitat conservation goals.
4. *Communicate the conservation outcomes* produced collectively by Fish Habitat Partnerships, as well as new opportunities and voluntary approaches for conserving fish habitat, to the public and conservation partners.

More specifically, the project will provide the following deliverables:

- **(Western Native Trout Initiative/Desert Fish Habitat Partnership) (\$17,293.00)**
Continue the successful MSG collaboration between WNTI and Desert FHP to complete an integrated aquatic assessment in the Rio Grande Basin in FY17. Siglo Group/The University of Texas has assembled data on and completed predictive distribution models for all fish species in the Rio Grande Basin (in the United States), including projected distribution under climate change. These models and data are key components to integrated aquatic assessments. The Rio Grande aquatic assessment will use these available species models, and integrate them with information on aquatic habitat conditions and riverine connectivity to rank all watersheds in the basin for conservation, which, in turn, will be available for use in WNTI and DFHP decision-making processes, including cross-partnership coordination. This outcome will substantially improve the quality of the 2020 National Fish Habitat condition assessment data for this basin. Subsequent years of funding will be used to complete integrated aquatic assessments for other basins, such as the Bonneville Basin or Lahontan Basin where native trout species and subspecies overlap in distribution with non-salmonid species. These aquatic assessments will strengthen WNTI/DFHP strategic planning and help each FHP identify conservation priorities, including those that overlap between the partnerships. The assessments will also elevate the use of science information in project selection by enhancing science and data coordination and information sharing among the two partnerships and between the two partnerships and the NFHP National Science and Data Committee and support the 2020 assessment of fish habitat. The Southern Rockies LCC has committed some funding to this assessment, but not enough to fully fund it, so MSG funds would be used to completely fund the project (\$8,800/year).
Goal 2: Both WNTI and DFHP were original NFHP partnerships and both are operating under a strategic framework that was developed with extensive input from all partners in 2006/2007. Both partnerships have completed interim updates to their strategic plans and strategic priorities in recent years, but a large-scale in-depth review has not been possible with available resources. With declining funding at the national level, both partnerships need to strengthen strategic partnerships and promote public awareness of conservation efforts for western native trout and desert fish and their habitats, and to increase overall NFHP-based Western Regional Fish Habitat Partnerships project awareness and understanding of goals and accomplishments. With 2017 being the ten year “anniversary” of both FHPs, further effort to revisit and review strategic partnerships, priorities, successes, and continuing challenges is imperative. This effort will begin a process of strengthening strategic partnership development and setting goals for 2017-2027. (\$9,366/year)
- **(Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture, Atlantic Coastal Fish Habitat Partnership, Southeast Aquatic Resources Partnership) (\$23,057.75)**
In three eastern Fish Habitat Partnerships, continue to develop and work with connectivity teams in participating FHPs. Collectively define and communicate the scientific basis of river restoration through connectivity improvement throughout the

Eastern U.S. Develop, update, and share connectivity assessment tools and resources specific to FHP state needs.

- **(4 Alaska Fish Habitat Partnerships) (\$17,293.32)**

The 2 goals of this project are: 1) Continue collaboration with AKHydro to edit Alaska hydrography and update the NHD for Alaska (\$10,000/yr); and 2) Continue to enhance coordination between AK FHPs, Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game (ADFG), and the National Science and Data Committee (\$8,000/year). A lack of adequate hydrography mapping and other habitat-related data sets makes it difficult to fairly evaluate Alaska in the National Fish Habitat Partnership's 5-year fish habitat condition assessment. The lack of good hydrography data also impacts individual Alaska Fish Habitat Partnerships (FHP) as they work to achieve conservation objectives including: designing and prioritizing fish passage projects, implement actions to inform efficient sampling for additions to the Anadromous Waters Catalog to protect fish habitat, assessing current and future thermal regimes for guiding climate change adaptation planning, designing water quality monitoring sampling programs, and better monitoring and planning for sustaining sport fishing, subsistence resource uses. This project will build upon accomplishments to improve and update NHD in Alaska and by the end of this two-year grant period we anticipate completing 2 NHD+ pilot-projects for the Mat-Su Salmon Habitat Partnership and Kenai Peninsula Fish Habitat Partnership. This project will also support collaborative efforts by ADFG that helps ensure that Alaska FHPs are successful when implementing projects designed to conserve fish habitat or protect and restore Pacific salmon, trout and char. ADFG provides not only the support, field expertise, and scientific capacity necessary to advance fish habitat conservation goals but also provides engagement and collaboration through its involvement with the network of Alaska FHPs

- **Driftless Area Restoration Effort (\$11,528.88)**

The Driftless Area Restoration Effort-fish habitat partnership will be hiring a full-time Stream Restoration Specialist to do long term planning and installation of stream restoration projects with landowners, cooperating agencies and our partners. Additional funding is being raised through foundations and state grants to support this new specialist position, but additional dollars are needed. This position will do all aspects of a stream restoration project and project planning, surveying, design and over-site of installation. The Driftless Area recently received two multimillion federal grants to be administered by DARE (Driftless Area Regional Conservation Partnership Program grant and a Kickapoo Mississippi River Basin Initiative). These two grants over the next five years will provide millions of additional dollars to partner on to do stream restoration in the Driftless Area.

- **Hawaii Fish Habitat Partnership (\$11,528.88)**

Hawaiian Estuary Habitat Assessments – approximately 50 semi-enclosed waterbodies are found throughout the main Hawaiian Islands where freshwater from the land mixes with seawater. These highly-productive aquatic systems are not well characterized despite acting as important nursery and refuge habitat for numerous species of recreationally and commercially-important marine fish species. This project will support benthic and littoral habitat surveys, document physical-chemical water quality characteristics of important estuaries in Hawaii. This condition assessment will provide current information for prioritizing conservation and management of Hawaiian estuaries and will contribute detailed information to future revisions of the National Assessment of Fish Habitat. *Partners:* Hawaii DLNR-Division of Aquatic Resources, Research Corporation of the University of Hawaii (RCUH).

- **California Fish Passage Forum and Pacific Marine and Estuarine Partnership (\$23,057.74)**

In California, the CA Fish Passage Forum will continue to refine APASS Optimized Fish Passage Barrier Prioritization Tool. This will further describe habitat quality attributes, document unknown barriers and develop improved cost criteria to enhance the utility and reliability of APASS barrier optimization algorithms and support maintenance and operation of California’s Fish Passage Assessment Database. The Forum will advance developing a stream temperature network database for California as well as using a temperature-based stream habitat estimation methodology to understand current conditions and model scenarios with variable temperature regimes, an issue that has become increasingly important with long-term drought.

- The Pacific Marine and Estuarine Partnership will continue to work with scientists and managers to create a robust estuarine and nearshore spatial framework for the West Coast with information on habitat types, species use, estuarine habitat loss and other stressors. A West Coast-wide classification and inventory of fish and habitat databases will be improved, including the collection, attribution and assimilation of fish and habitat datasets for the West Coast, and chart the course for next steps in achieving FHP strategic plan goals associated with identifying and prioritizing juvenile fish habitat on the West Coast.

- **Board Support for 10-year Anniversary of National Fish Habitat Partnership (\$16,000)**

April 2016 – April 2017 marks the 10th Anniversary of the National Fish Habitat Action Plan being signed by the Secretaries of Commerce and the Interior and the President of the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. This Anniversary provides an opportunity to tout the accomplishments of NFHP, increase public awareness, attract additional resources for the Partnership and highlight State involvement in the program.

The National Fish Habitat Board has identified some key meetings and conferences that they would like to highlight the National Fish Habitat Partnership program through and would utilize this funding to make it a reality. This request would cover meeting sponsorship and involvement, as well as supporting communications efforts for the Anniversary and for 2017 overall. This funding request will also help out with promoting our National Fish Habitat Assessment Report on behalf of the NFHP Science and Data Committee.

Certification Regarding Fishing/Hunting

“By submitting this proposal, the organization’s primary contact and/or authorized representative identified in this grant application certifies that the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (1) will not use the grant funds to fund, in whole or in part, any activity of the organization that promotes or encourages opposition to the regulated hunting or trapping of wildlife or the regulated taking of fish; and (2) that the grant funds will not be used, in whole or in part, for an activity, project, or program that promotes or encourages opposition to the regulated hunting and trapping of wildlife or the regulated taking of fish.”

Certification Regarding Partnership Funds (if applicable)

“By submitting this proposal, the organization’s primary contact and/or authorized representative identified in this grant application certifies that the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies : 1) understands that partnership fund contributions are assessed in the Association’s review and selection of its priority list of MSCGP projects, but are not considered by the USFWS to be an official non-federal match/cost-share; 2) will provide the partnership funds identified in order to complete the proposed project; 3) understands that if the promised partnership funds are not provided, and there is not a sufficient explanation, potential consequences could include a poor “quality assurance” evaluation by the National Grants Committee for the organization’s future MSCGP applications; the imposition of “special award conditions” on this proposed grant and/or future grants (pursuant to 43 CFR 12); and if the failure to provide partnership funds affects the scope/objective or deliverables or other terms and conditions of the grant, then the USFWS could take necessary enforcement and termination actions (pursuant to 43 CFR 12).”

Budget

	Fish Habitat Partnerships	MSCPG	P.F.*	
AFWA	Salary Benefits Travel \$8,000 Supplies \$8,000	\$16,000.00		\$16,000.00
Eastern U.S.	Atlantic Coastal FHP, Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture, Southeast Aquatic Resources Partnership	23,057.75		23,057.75
Midwest U.S.	Driftless Area	11,528.88		11,528.88
Western U.S.	Desert FHP Western Native Trout Initiative	17,293.32		17,293.32
Pacific Coast	Pacific Marine & Estuarine Partnership, California Fish Passage Forum	23,057.74		23,057.74
Alaska	Kenai Peninsula FHP, Mat-Su Basin Salmon Habitat Partnership, Southwest Alaska Salmon Habitat Partnership, Southeast Alaska FHP	17,293.32		17,293.32
Hawaii	Hawaii Fish Habitat Partnership	11,528.88		11,528.88

Travel	8,000.00
Supplies	8,000.00
Contract	103,759.89
Total	119,759.89
Indirect	23,951.98
Grand Total	143,711.87

Qualifications of Key Personnel

Tom Champeau, Chairman, National Fish Habitat Board

Mr. Champeau became chair of the National Fish Habitat Board in 2015. Tom has spent 34 years with the Florida Fish & Wildlife Commission. While working in the field, Tom led major lake habitat restoration projects, worked with the local communities and the mining industry on lake design and management for phosphate mined pits, and defining fish community metrics for establishing minimum flows for rivers in Southwest Florida. Tom holds degrees from the University of Michigan and University of Nebraska.

Ryan Roberts, Program Manager, National Fish Habitat Partnership

Ryan Roberts is the Communications Coordinator for the National Fish Habitat Partnership. Mr. Roberts has 10 years of experience in public relations/communications and has worked on the National Fish Habitat Partnership since 2008. Mr. Roberts created several communications toolkits for use by National Fish Habitat Partnerships and created an overall communications strategy for the partnership. Mr. Roberts' contributions were key in the development and release of the Status of Fish Habitat Partnership 2010 Assessment and the 2nd Edition of the National Fish Habitat Action Plan (2012). Mr. Roberts graduated from Penn State University with a B.S. in Telecommunications/Business (Minor).

Gary Whelan, NFHP Board Science and Data Committee Co-Chair

Gary Whelan is one of the two co-chairs of the NFHP Board Science and Data Committee and has worked on NFHP since its inception. Mr. Whelan is a Program Manager for the Michigan Department of Natural Resources – Fisheries Division where he manages the Research Section and a Habitat Management Unit. His fisheries career has spanned over 32 years and he has worked in nearly every aspect of fisheries in the State of Michigan. In his role for NFHP, he has been responsible for all of the Board's Science and Data efforts including the development and release of the Status of Fish Habitat Partnership 2010 and 2015 Assessments. He was also deeply involved in the development of the 1st (2006) and the 2nd Editions of the National Fish Habitat Action Plan (2012). Mr. Whelan holds a B.S. in Zoology (Fisheries Management focus) from the University of Wyoming and a M.S. in Fisheries Management from the University of Missouri.

Staff level leadership and management support of the work of the Board group will be provided by AFWA, USFWS, NOAA, state agencies and other partners such as NGO's.

National Fish Habitat Board Members <http://fishhabitat.org/contacts/board>

Title: Beyond the Pond Update

Desired Outcome:

- **Board awareness** of fundraising and marketing progress to date and next steps.
- **Board discussion and consensus** on the following fundraising questions:
 - What is the role of FHPs in raising money?
 - How do we engage Beyond the Pond in fundraising coordination, training, and support?
- **Board discussion and consensus** on the following questions:
 - Why are we marketing?
 - What is effective marketing?
 - How much more branding and marketing do we want to do?
 - Should we continue to put emphasis on network of FHPs and connection to the National effort?

Background:

The National Fish Habitat Fund, which was approved by the IRS in June 2015 as a 501(c)(3) non-profit, was established to help partnerships seek additional funding for on-the-ground projects and activities. The National Fish Habitat Fund is marketed under the title and logo, Beyond the Pond.

2016 Progress and Accomplishments:

- Launched the Beyond the Pond website
- ACFHP and the mid-Atlantic Council were successful in using the Section 501(c)(3) for a Black Sea Bass Grant program.
- Developed chapter recognition agreements
- Developed Beyond the Pond outreach materials (Fact Sheet, Ad Card)
- Finalizing a Donate Now Button for website
- Amazon Smile Account Created
- EIN and DUNS #'s secured.
- Trademarks secured for (Beyond the Pond) and (It Starts in Your Own Backyard)
- Working on Developing relationships

Next Steps:

- Tab 06b_BOD Draft Meeting Agenda Attached



Meeting of the Beyond the Pond Board

October 25, 2016

1:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Panama City, FL

Beyond the Pond Officers List:

Michael L. Andrews – (The Nature Conservancy, National Fish Habitat Board)

Tom Champeau – (Florida Fish & Wildlife Commission, National Fish Habitat Board – Chair)

Kelly Hepler – (Secretary, South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Department, Chair)

Jon Johnson – (University of Arkansas, Walton College – Professor of Sustainability, Vice-Chair)

John Land LeCoq - (Fishpond)

Dick Ludington – (Fay Ranches)

Steve Moyer – (Vice President, Government Affairs – Trout Unlimited)

Rich Rosengren – (The Nature Conservancy)

Board Meeting Agenda

1:00 PM – Introductions, Approve Agenda (Jon Johnson)

1:10 PM – Meet and Greet with Fish Habitat Partnership Representatives

2:30 PM – Framing Potential Projects to boost fundraising (Therese Thompson, Debbie Hart)

3:20 PM – Board/FHP roles and responsibilities discussion (Tom Champeau)

4:00 PM – Utilizing Beyond the Pond for grant opportunities (Ryan Roberts)

4:30 PM – Beyond the Pond Marketing and Website Update (Ryan Roberts)

5:00 PM – **Meeting Wrap-up**

Title: Federal Caucus

Desired outcomes:

- **Board understanding** of parking lot items developed at the March Executive Session:
 - What is the purpose of the Federal Caucus?
 - What is the work of the Federal Caucus (e.g. meeting tasks and charge)?
 - Who are the participants in the Federal Caucus?
- **Board discussion and consensus** on the following questions:
 - What is the current expectation of the Federal Caucus?
 - How can it be most helpful to the goals of the NFHP?
 - Does the Federal Caucus need to be reinvigorated?

Background:

➤ **Purpose**

- [From the Charter:](#)

3. Federal Caucus—The Board shall 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. 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 agencies policies are consistent with the Plan, and to otherwise support implementation of the Plan.

- [From the 2015 Board Manual:](#)

Several federal agencies contribute to the work of the Partnership, not just the agencies that are represented on the Board. The Federal Caucus was created in 2005 to facilitate interaction among federal agencies and with other partners by:

- *providing communication links among federal agencies cooperating under the National Fish Habitat Partnership;*
- *providing a mechanism through which federal partners can jointly identify strategies and resources to support goals of the National Fish Habitat Partnership;*
- *ensuring that the National Fish Habitat Partnership helps agencies achieve their missions by enhancing partnerships and improving measurement of results and performance; and*
- *enhancing networking and collaboration among federal partners, the National Fish Habitat Board, and other partners implementing the National Fish Habitat Action Plan.*

The Federal Caucus meets every three months or as needed. In 2012, the Caucus was instrumental in achieving a Secretarial Memorandum of Understanding in support of the Partnership, signed by the Secretaries of Agriculture, Commerce, and the Interior.

- [National Fish Habitat Action Plan](#)

Appendix 4: Strategies & Resources of Federal Agencies

➤ **Past Work of the Federal Caucus:**

- Development of the DOI, DOA, DOC Memorandum of Understanding (noted above).

➤ **Current Federal Caucus Members:**

First Name	Last Name	Email Address
Arthur	Coykendall	acoykendall@usbr.gov
Cathy	Cunningham	ccunningham@usbr.gov
Megan	Davidson	megan.davidson@boem.gov
Alan	Ellsworth	alan_ellsworth@nps.gov
Jason	Goldberg	Jason_Goldberg@fws.gov
Craig	Goodwin	craig.goodwin@wdc.usda.gov
Emily	Greene	emily.greene@noaa.gov
Julie	Henning	julie_henning@fws.gov
David	Hoge	david.hoge@wdc.usda.gov
David	Hu	dhu@blm.gov
Steven	Krentz	Steven_Krentz@fws.gov
Jake	Levenson	Jacob.Levenson@boem.gov
Cecilia	Lewis	cecilia_lewis@fws.gov
Callie	McMunigal	callie_mcmunigal@fws.gov
Doug	Norton	norton.douglas@epa.gov
Andrea	Ostroff	aostroff@usgs.gov
Bill	Rice	william_rice@fws.gov
Ryan	Roberts	rroberts@fishwildlife.org
John	Rothlisberger	jrothlisberger@fs.fed.us
Dan	Shively	dshively@fs.fed.us
David	Smith	david.l.smith@usace.army.mil
Gordon	Smith	gordon_smith@fws.gov
Susan	Wells	susan_wells@fws.gov
Gary	Whelan	whelang@michigan.gov
David	Wigglesworth	david_wigglesworth@fws.gov
John	Wullschleger	john_wullschleger@nps.gov

Title: Communications Committee Report

Desired outcome: An informational briefing to the Board on the committee's 2016 work plan and consensus on Board's priorities for the committee in 2017.

Background: At its October 2015 Meeting, the Board tasked the communications committee with addressing the following priority issues during 2016:

2016 Priority Recommendations:

Task A - PR and Marketing Resources for the NFHP 2015 Status Report (Budget Need: \$2,000)

Task B - NFHP website re-development. (Budget need: \$20,000)

Task C - Continue development of the NFHP Marketing Campaign and re-branding efforts for the NFHP program and the FHPs.

Task D - Continue building the database for newsletter distribution to increase engagement with partner coalition.

Task E - Increase usage of video and further campaign to document work of Fish Habitat Partnerships. (Budget need: \$5,000)

Task F - Continue coordination with legislative affairs team in supporting developments of the National Fish Habitat Conservation Act

Task G - Increase outreach of Waters to Watch Campaign for its Ten Year Anniversary (Budget need: \$3,000)

Task H - Review and make any needed changes to the communications strategy (Board approved 2011 and updated in 2013) to ensure that it remains a guide for committee work and maintained as a living document.

2016 Priority Progress:

Task A – We will utilize a campaign in late 2016 to highlight the 2015 Assessment across Social Media. We will also have an article on the Assessment Report published in the January 2016 edition of Fisheries (AFS Publication).

Task B – We completed a relaunch of the fishhabitat.org website. This website is dynamic and has created the potential to expand the capabilities of what we can do with the content display on our website. This new platform utilizes a modern content management system and better integrates the NFHP Assessment Report into the website, which has been an outstanding need since 2010. The website affords the Partnership a much needed fresh look and has taken our website from a desktop-only friendly interface to making our website mobile and tablet friendly.

Task C – We were able to launch both of the websites for Beyond the Pond and the National Fish Habitat Partnership in 2016. Through Beyond the Pond, we have been able to highlight some success stories on the website and have tied in the National Fish Habitat Partnership Map on the Beyond the Pond website. We will continue working on this task.

Task D - We have implemented a new newsletter format through Mail Chimp and have increased our newsletter database by approximately 200 people through targeted events and sign-ups through our website in 2016. This new newsletter format will be a budget cost-savings as it is free, where our other newsletter through DJ Case cost approximately \$20 for every mailing.

Task E – In 2015 we saw similar results to 2014 for our Waters to Watch Campaign. We received 30 media mentions of our Waters to Watch National release projects and 4 individual projects received media placement in regional newspapers. We utilized Meltwater media to help send the releases out for 2015 and there was a bit of a learning curve for using the service the first time around. Activities for the NFHP non-profit took up some time to truly improve the campaign for 2015.

Task F - In 2016 we had completed an update to our National Fish Habitat Legislation Fact Sheet in preparation for the National Fish Habitat bill being reintroduced. We have been working closely with the Government Affairs team on monitoring the progress of the bill, which is included in the Sportsmen’s Package, which has passed the Senate. The bill is now part of the Energy Conference between the House and Senate. In 2017 we may need to focus more outreach efforts through our partnerships to help move the legislation forward.

Task G – In 2016 we saw similar results to 2015. We received several mentions across news and social media platforms as well as six mentions of individual projects by newspaper websites. We were able to utilize Meltwater News Service at no cost through AFWA to send out our press release.

Task H – The Communications Committee of the Board put most of their efforts in 2016 into developing a Ten-Year Anniversary Communications Strategy. The Communications Committee developed this strategy and endorsed and supported by the Anniversary Steering Committee. We were able to meet most of the expected deliverables in the strategy, and we will look to complete the expected deliverables by April 2017.

Tentative list of priority issues to be addressed in 2017:

Task A - NFHP website services. (Budget need: \$3,000)

Task B - Continue development of the NFHP Marketing Campaign and improving connections to Beyond the Pond.

Task C - Continue building the database for newsletter distribution to increase engagement with partner coalition.

Task D - Increase usage of video and further campaign to document work of Fish Habitat Partnerships. (Budget need: \$5,000)

Task E - Continue coordination with legislative affairs team in supporting developments of the National Fish Habitat Conservation Act.

Task F - Review and make any needed changes to the communications strategy (Board approved 2011 and updated in 2013) to ensure that it remains a guide for committee work and maintained as a living document.

Task G - Continue marketing and communications efforts for the 10-year Anniversary of the National Fish Habitat Partnership (Budget need: \$8,000)

Title: Legislative Update

Desired outcome: Board awareness of the National Fish Habitat Conservation Act status

Background:

Versions of the National Fish Habitat Conservation Act (NFHCA), which will codify and strengthen the National Fish Habitat Partnership, have been introduced in the previous three sessions of Congress. Previous versions of NFHCA have enjoyed broad bipartisan support in Congress, including bipartisan approval by the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee in two different Congresses.

2016 Legislative Priority and Accomplishments:

Board Priority Task A: Continue coordination with legislative affairs team in supporting developments of the National Fish Habitat Conservation Act; (assign to eligible Board members and legislative team)

Accomplishments: The NFHP legislative coalition includes representatives from The Nature Conservancy, Trout Unlimited, the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, the American Sportfishing Association, the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership, the Coastal Conservation Association and the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation. The primary focus of the coalition has been to introduce a bill that will achieve the legislative goals of the Board and advocate for its inclusion in the Sportsmen's Act, which is a package of various legislative provisions supported by the recreational fishing and hunting community. During 2015 and 2016, the coalition worked actively with Congressional staff who are overseeing the Sportsmen's Act in the Senate to introduce a streamlined bill that achieves the core goals of the legislative effort. Through these efforts, new language titled the "National Fish Habitat Conservation Through Partnerships Act" was included in S. 659, which is the portion of the Sportsmen's Act that passed out of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, thanks largely to the leadership of Senators Lisa Murkowski (R-AK). This bill was included in the Senate Energy Bill, which passed the Senate in April. While companion language was not included in the House Energy Bill, it is still "in play" in the ongoing conference committee negotiations to rectify differences between the two chambers' Energy Bills. The coalition is optimistic that the NFHP provision will make it out of the conference committee, should such an agreement be reached in the lame duck session after the election.

2017 Legislative Priority and Approach:

Priority: Continue coordination with legislative affairs team in supporting developments of the National Fish Habitat Conservation Act

Approach: Should the Energy Bill conference not come through, or the NFHP legislation not be included in the final bill that gets signed into law, the coalition (TNC/TU/AFWA/ASA/TRCP) will continue to push for passage of NFHP legislation in the 115th Congress through whatever means possible.

Title: Partnerships Committee 2016 Report

Desired outcomes:

- **Board awareness** of Partnerships Committee 2016 accomplishments.
- **Board review and input** on proposed 2017 priorities.

Background:

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

2016 Accomplishments:

- In response to a task from the Board at its March 2016 meeting the Partnerships Committee leadership and staff worked to revitalize and repopulate its membership and priorities for 2016. The Committees current membership, which includes FHP coordinators and Board members, can be found below.

Members:

Jeff Boxrucker (RFHP)

Doug Boyd (SBPC)

Jessica Graham (SARP)

Debbie Hart (SEAK FHP)

Lisa Havel (ACFHP)

Heidi Keuler (F&F FHP)

Ross Melinchuk (TX PWD)

Joe Nohner (MGLFHP)

Steve Perry (EBTJV)

Tri-Chairs

Stan Allen (PSMFC)

Bryan Moore (TU)

Therese Thompson (WNTI)

Staff

Cecilia Lewis (USFWS)

Emily Greene (ERT-NMFS)

- On a kick-off conference call of the reinvigorated committee (May 6), the group prioritized its tasks and began identifying working groups and next steps. Task prioritization was as follows:

Higher Priority Tasks

- Develop a Document of Interdependence/Revisit the FHP Guidelines (FHP Forum discussion outcome).
- Partnerships Committee will provide guidance on where, when, and how the Board provides input to the USFWS NFHP Project Funding Method, in which the needs of both the Board and Federal partners are met (Board assigned March 2016).
- Partnership Committee should include interested FHP Coordinators and Review Team members to consider and recommend improvements to the FHP Performance Evaluation

measure wording and overall evaluation process for Board consideration during 2016 (FHP Performance Evaluation Review Team Recommendation – Board approved March 2016).

Lower Priority Tasks

- Review FHP performance evaluation response forms and identify the scale and scope of the linkages between FHP priorities and the NFHP National Conservation Strategies (2016 Board Priority D).
 - Development of a process that provides a priority ranking of multiple FHP project proposals that are combined for submission to a funding source (2016 Board Priority C).
 - The Committee deleted the following task: *2016 Board Priority B: Review current NFHP National Conservation Need and amend as needed*, because the opportunity to revise the current NFHP National Conservation Need has now passed.
- On its second call (June 3), the Committee reviewed a staff prepared draft Document of Interdependence (working title), discussed the purpose and structure of the document, and established a working group to further develop the document. A product for review was provided to the full committee in September.
- The Document of Interdependence is intended to address the relationship between the National Fish Habitat Board, FHPs, Beyond the Pond, and partners. It can be viewed as a guide that outlines how these entities can effectively work together. It is intended to be a high level framework document that is not overly prescriptive and allows for flexibility. It has been provided to the Board for review and input at its October meeting.
- On the Committee's September 16 call, Therese Thompson (WNTI) and Bryan Moore (TU) volunteered to chair the committee along with Stan Allen.
- The Committee was not able to achieve its 2016 priorities, however with a reinvigorated membership and additional leadership the Committee is confident it can achieve these outstanding tasks in 2017.

Proposed 2017 Priorities:

High Priority

- Complete the Document of Interdependence (FHP Forum discussion outcome).
- Partnerships Committee will provide guidance on where, when, and how the Board provides input to the USFWS NFHP Project Funding Method, in which the needs of both the Board and Federal partners are met (Board assigned March 2016).
- Partnership Committee should include interested FHP Coordinators and Review Team members to consider and recommend improvements to the FHP Performance Evaluation

measure wording and overall evaluation process for Board consideration during 2016 (FHP Performance Evaluation Review Team Recommendation – Board approved March 2016).

- Work with the Budget and Finance Committee to develop a strategy that would allow for multiple FHP project proposals that are combined for submission to a funding source.

Low Priority

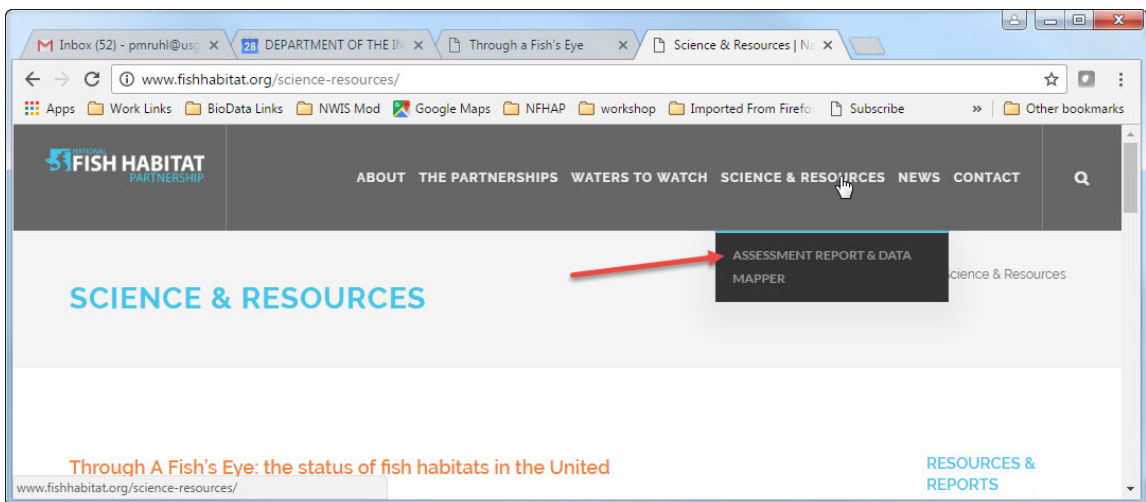
- Review FHP performance evaluation response forms and identify the scale and scope of the linkages between FHP priorities and the NFHP National Conservation Strategies (Outstanding 2016 Board Priority).
- Review current NFHP National Conservation Need and amend as needed. (Outstanding 2016 Board Priority)

Title: Science and Data Committee Report for FY2016 – 3rd quarter (January, 2016 – September, 2016).

Desired outcome: An informational briefing to the Board on the Science and Data Committee’s 2016 work plan outcomes and Board concurrence for the Science and Data Committee’s proposed priority tasks for 2017. The briefing will include a preliminary FY2017 Board funding request for those tasks and an identification of external funding needs.

2016 Priorities and Outcomes: At the January, 2016 Meeting of the National Fish Habitat Board the Board endorsed six priorities tasks to be led by the Science and Data Committee. In addition, at the October, 2015 Board meeting the Science and Data Committee was given the lead on reviewing application materials provided by the Pacific Lamprey Candidate FHP. The Committee has been implementing these tasks as follows.

- 1) Complete and publish electronically the 2015 National Assessment (Priority L).
 - a) Status - The 2015 National Assessment was released as a web application on the NFHP website on August 29, 2016. The report is available from the NFHP web site (<http://www.fishhabitat.org>) under the *Science and Resources* tab, or directly at <http://assessment.fishhabitat.org>.



- 2) PR and marketing for the NFHP 2015 National Assessment (Priority E)
 - a) Status
 - i) Gary Whelan gave several presentations that previewed the report during the WAFWA meeting July 21 – 25. The draft report got very good reviews from participants. We received positive feedback about how the report describes the

- tradeoffs between national comparability and local/regional influences that cannot be defined at a national scale. It was recommended that the report separate analysis and presentation for intermittent and permanent streams. This enhancement is proposed as one of the FY17 priority activities of the Science and Data Committee.
- ii) Gary Whelan, Ryan Roberts, and Stan Allen gave many informal briefings and demonstrations of the Assessment web site at the NFHP booth at the AFS national meeting August 21-25. Daniel Wieferich also gave an oral presentation describing how the report incorporates interactive features for presenting information and data to a variety of audiences.
 - iii) Gary Whelan manned a booth at the AFWA meeting September 12 -14. The report was well received. Suggestions included making it easier to get the underlying data sets, not just the final scores, and to package the results by state. This improvement is proposed as one of the FY2017 Science and Data tasks.
 - iv) Ryan Roberts is preparing a press release that will be distributed as soon as some embedded links to the NFHP web site are fixed. At the same time the Assessment report will be moved to a more prominent location on the NFHP website. The USGS is also preparing an announcement that will be released concurrently.
- 3) Complete and implement the National Project Database (Priority M)
- a) Status – The Science and Data Committee request for \$37,000 for the first year of a three-year project to complete the database could not be funded in FY16. USGS has agreed to provide \$25,000 toward the database but contracting delays have prevented it being applied. In the interim the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission (PSMFC) has provided essential system maintenance. PSMFC has also done preliminary work to obtain baseline project data from the USFWS FIS system. USFWS has responded to our data request stating that at this time they can provide data for many, but not all data elements. Robin Carlson will work with Linda Andreason (USFWS FIS coordinator) to identify and obtain what is feasible. USFWS is beginning a process to update FIS and will be including Robin in discussions about how to improve data integration and interoperability with the NFHP Project Database.
- 4) Reinststitute work on a set of evaluation standards for a range of habitat projects (Priority N)
- a) Status – tabled in lieu of completing 2015 Assessment
- 5) Ensure the functions of the Board’s Science and Data Committee (Priority O)
- a) Status – During FY2016 Science and Data Committee activities focused on finishing the 2015 National Assessment (See items 1 and 2 above). Other significant activities included (1) participation in the FHP performance assessment, and (2) reviewing the application of the Pacific Lamprey Candidate FHP. The Science and Data Committee received the application June 22, 2016 and subsequently recommended approval. The Board approved the application during the June, 2016 board meeting with a request for further clarification of several issues. The Pacific Lamprey FHP responded to those

questions in a letter to the Board dated August 4, 2016.

- 6) Begin work on the 2020 Assessment (Priority P)
 - a) Status - Planning for the 2020 assessment will begin during the October, 2016 joint FHP/Science and Data Committee workshop. The workshop will include a retrospective on the 2010 and 2015 assessments. What was their purpose? How have they been used? What are their strengths and weaknesses? How did FHPs, the national assessment teams, and the Science and Data Committee interact during the process? The workshop will also look forward toward the future assessment work. What should be its' purpose? Are there additional or different needs the assessment should target? How should work be coordinated? What are the roles and expectations for FHPs, the Science and Data Committee, and the national assessment teams? What type of assessment will available data support?

Draft Science and Data Priorities for FY2017:

- 1) Enhancement of the 2015 Assessment
 - b) Several recommendations have been made by assessment stakeholders: (1) adding a map that displays assessment scores only for permanent streams, (2) making it easier to drill down and retrieve the underlying data sets on which analyses are based, and (3) packaging and presenting results by state.
 - c) Implement report versioning and revision history tracking
 - d) **Budget need** – uncertain at this time, under discussion with USGS
- 2) Planning and Initiation of Future Assessment Work
 - a) Planning will begin during the October 2016 joint FHP – Science and Data Committee workshop immediately prior to the October Board meeting. The goals of that meeting include broadly scoping future assessment work in terms of science, targeted audiences, intended uses, and product delivery. Scope and approach topics that merit particular attention include, (1) how to address regionalization concerns raised about the 2015 assessment, (2) whether it will be feasible to incorporate hydrologic, water quality, temperature, and other process-oriented habitat factors, and (3) how to address the desire to incorporate socio-economic factors in the assessment. Follow up meetings will further refine the data requirements, work packages, and deliverables for the Committee, national assessment teams, and Partnerships.
 - b) **Budget need** (figures are tentative at this time)
 - i) \$10,000 to support travel for FHP participants in a face-to-face planning meeting, tentatively planned for 1st quarter of calendar year 2017.
 - ii) \$163,000 for the inland assessment team for work related to (1) enhancements to the 2015 report and (2) beginning work on the 2020 assessment.

- iii) \$200,000 for the marine assessment team to begin work on future assessment work.
Please note, this budget need is based on previous year estimates and does not reflect need based on FHP-SDC Workshop (October 24-25) discussion. It does not imply NOAA commitment.

- 3) Beginning a three-year project to complete the NFHP Project Tracking Database
 - a) In 2015 the Committee recommended a 3-year project to complete the NFHP Project Tracking Database. Lack of funds prevented that project from commencing. The Committee recommends initiating that project during FY17. The first year would include:
 - i) Planning – to (1) establish and coordinate a database working group, (2) clarify data and reporting requirements, (3) define and prioritize FHP needs for improving the data entry workflow and user interface.
 - ii) Assisting partnerships with data entry/upload and data management planning and implementation
 - iii) System maintenance
 - b) **Budget Need** – a total of \$41,200 for FY17. USGS has committed \$25,000 that should become available during FY17, leaving an remainder requirement of \$16,200.

- 4) Maintaining and improving the NFHP Data System
 - a) ongoing maintenance and hosting, minor improvements
 - b) add new data assets produced for the 2015 Assessment
 - c) add dynamic querying for FHP and state level data. For 2010 this was provided by pre-processing the data into these discrete chunks. This approach limits our agility in (1) rapidly updating or re-packaging data retrievals as new needs arise, and (2) constrains users to pre-defined subsets of the data. It will also allow us to track data-usage more efficiently.
 - d) Evaluate whether we want to make substantial changes for FY18. For example, (1) align the NFHP data assets with the USGS Biogeographic Information System, allowing for greater flexibility and integration with other data assets being developed externally to NFHP work.
 - e) **Budget Need** – currently anticipating in-kind support from USGS. Science and Data Committee chairs will meet with USGS in November to fully define FY17 level of support.

Report Prepared By:

Gary Whelan, MI Department of Natural Resources

Peter Ruhl, US Geological Survey

October 11, 2016

National Fish Habitat Board
DRAFT 2016 Budget v1

REVENUES (Board Activities)					
	AFWA/FWS Coop (4500)	Other - (FWS)	NOAA	USGS	TOTAL
Income	\$ 64,000		\$ 20,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 109,000
Carryover	\$ 100,000				\$ 100,000
SUBTOTAL	\$ 164,000	\$ -	\$ 20,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 209,000

EXPENSES

EXPENSES					
Coordination of Board and FHPs					
Salaries and Benefits					\$ -
Travel - Board functions					\$ -
Travel - Staff	\$ (23,500)				\$ (23,500)
Supplies					\$ -
Contractual to FHPs					\$ -
SUBTOTAL	\$ (23,500)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (23,500)
Communications					
Salaries and Benefits	\$ (100,000)				\$ (100,000)
Awards					\$ -
Annual Report					\$ -
Communications Products					\$ -
Telephone					\$ -
Travel - Communications Coordinator					\$ -
Contractual					\$ -
Priority A: NFHP website services.	\$ (3,000)				\$ (3,000)
Priority D: NFHP FHP Video Campaign	\$ (5,000)				\$ (5,000)
Priority G: Increase outreach of Waters to Watch Campaign for its Ten Year Anniversary	\$ (8,000)		\$ (5,000)		\$ (13,000)
SUBTOTAL	\$ (116,000)	\$ -	\$ (5,000)	\$ -	\$ (121,000)
Science & Data					
Priority Q: Beginning a three-year project to complete the NFHP Project Tracking Database				\$ (25,000)	\$ (25,000)
See 'Expenses Outside this Budget', below.					\$ -
SUBTOTAL	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (25,000)	\$ (25,000)
TOTAL DIRECT	\$ (139,500)	\$ -	\$ (5,000)	\$ (25,000)	\$ (169,500)
IDC	\$ (37,665)				\$ (37,665)
TOTAL INDIRECT	\$ (37,665)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (37,665)
NET	\$ (13,165)	\$ -	\$ 15,000	\$ -	\$ 1,835

EXPENSES OUTSIDE THIS BUDGET					
Priority O: Enhancement of the 2015 Assessment	TBD				
Priority P: Planning and initiation of future assessment work	\$ 373,200				
Priority Q: Beginning a three-year project to complete the NFHP Project Tracking Database	\$ 16,200				
Priority R: Maintaining and improving the NFHP Data System	TBD				

	MSCG - FHP Coordination (4582)	MSCG - FHP Coordination (4583)	MSCG - FHP Coordination (4584)
	\$ 138,011	\$ 82,254	\$ 143,712
\$ 138,011	\$ 82,254	\$ 143,712	
			\$ (8,000)
			\$ (8,000)
\$ (125,244)	\$ (68,545)	\$ (103,760)	
\$ (131,041)	\$ (68,545)	\$ (119,760)	
\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
\$ (131,041)	\$ (68,545)	\$ (119,760)	
\$ (6,970)	\$ (13,709)	\$ (23,952)	
\$ (6,970)	\$ (13,709)	\$ (23,952)	
\$ -	\$ -	\$ 0	

**National Fish Habitat Board
DRAFT 2016 Budget v1**

Cell: B4

Comment: John Bloom:

Half of the expected \$128,000 co-op agreement from USFWS. Funds are available over 12 months covering 2016 & 2017. Estimating half will apply ot 2016.

Cell: D4

Comment: Indirect not accounted for.

Cell: E4

Comment: Committed by USGS, contract in development. Indirect not accounted for.

Cell: B10

Comment: Ryan Roberts:

8 Board member trips at \$2000 ea.

Cell: B11

Comment: Ryan Roberts:

Roberts, Regan travel to Board Mtgs.

Cell: D35

Comment: This \$15k is expected to be spent by the end of CY2016 to pay for FHP & SDC Travel to the October 24-25 workshop.

Title: Proposed 2017 Draft Board Priorities

Desired outcome: Board understanding of proposed 2017 Priorities with consideration of the budget.

(+) Priority A: NFHP website services.

(+) Priority B: Continue development of the NFHP Marketing Campaign and improving connections to Beyond the Pond.

(+) Priority C: Continue building the database for newsletter distribution to increase engagement with partner coalition.

(+) Priority D: Increase usage of video and further campaign to document work of Fish Habitat Partnerships.

(+) Priority E: Continue coordination with legislative affairs team in supporting developments of the National Fish Habitat Conservation Act.

(+) Priority F: Review and make any needed changes to the communications strategy (Board approved 2011 and updated in 2013) to ensure that it remains a guide for committee work and maintained as a living document.

(+) Priority G: Continue marketing and communications efforts for the 10-year Anniversary of the National Fish Habitat Partnership (Budget need: \$8,000)

(+) Priority H: Continue coordination with legislative affairs team in supporting developments of the National Fish Habitat Conservation Act

(+) Priority I: Complete the Document of Interdependence (FHP Forum discussion outcome).

(+) Priority J: Partnerships Committee will provide guidance on where, when, and how the Board provides input to the USFWS NFHP Project Funding Method, in which the needs of both the Board and Federal partners are met

(+) Priority K: Partnership Committee should include interested FHP Coordinators and Review Team members to consider and recommend improvements to the FHP Performance

Evaluation measure wording and overall evaluation process for Board consideration during 2017.

(+) Priority L: Work with the Budget and Finance Committee to develop a strategy that would allow for multiple FHP project proposals that are combined for submission to a funding source.

(+) Priority M: Review FHP performance evaluation response forms and identify the scale and scope of the linkages between FHP priorities and the NFHP National Conservation Strategies.

(+) Priority N: Review current NFHP National Conservation Need and amend as needed.

(-) Priority O: Enhancement of the 2015 Assessment.

(-) Priority P: Planning and initiation of future assessment work.

(/) Priority Q: Beginning a three-year project to complete the NFHP Project Tracking Database

(-) Priority R: Maintaining and improving the NFHP Data System

KEY:

(+) : No funding needed or funding has been provided

(/) : Partial funding has been provided

(-) : Funding is needed and funding commitment has not been made