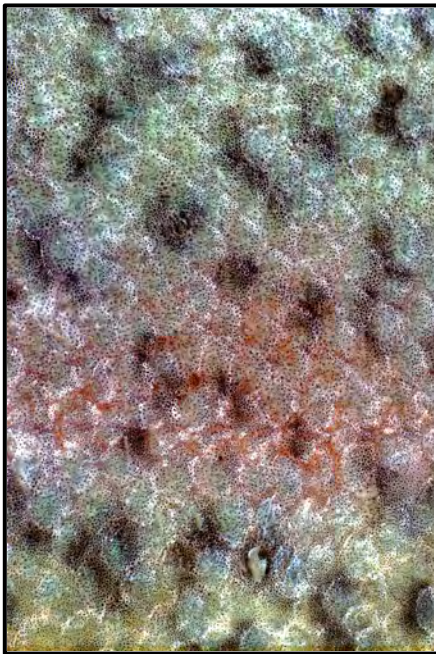
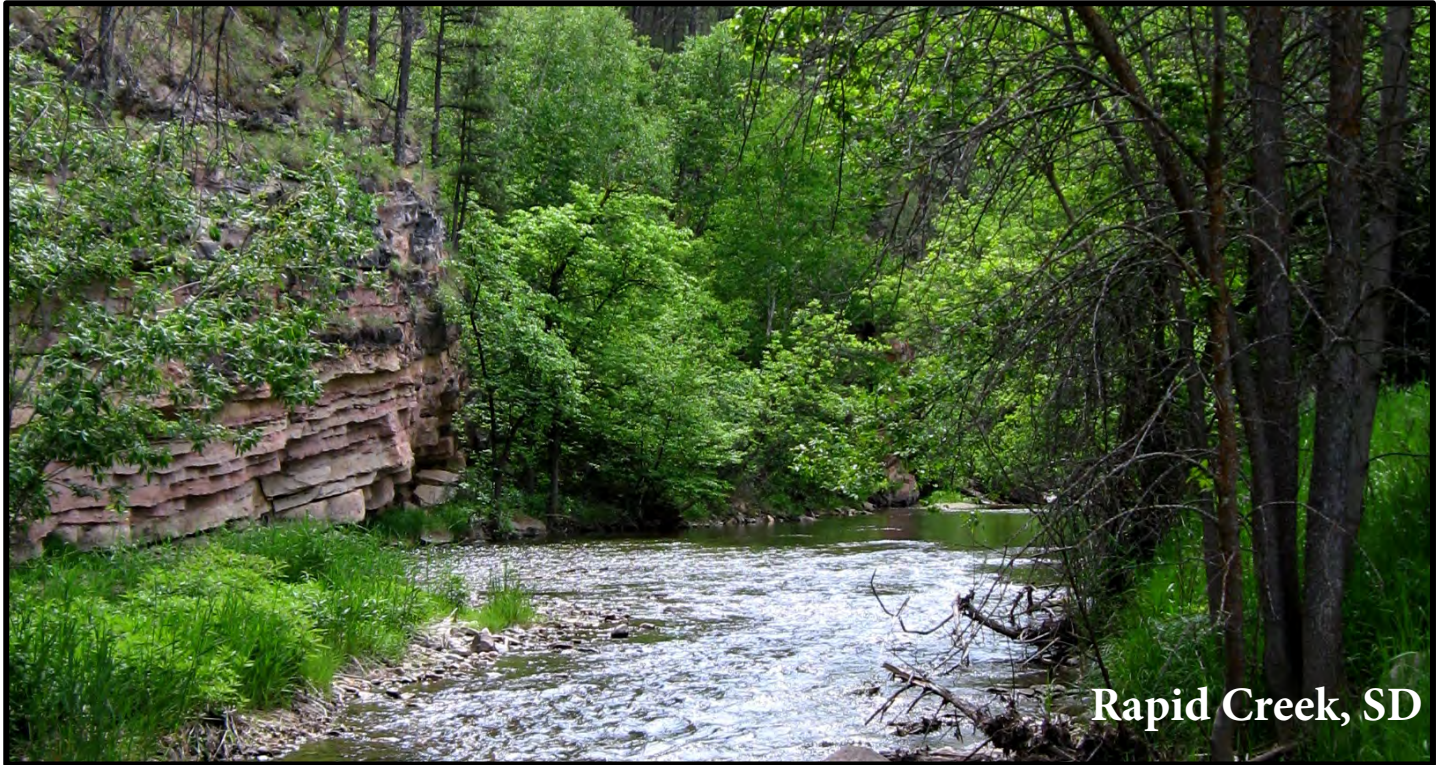


 NATIONAL
FISH HABITAT
PARTNERSHIP



**Meeting of the National Fish Habitat
Board Hosted by:**



**Meeting Book for The
National Fish Habitat Board**

October 18-19, 2017



**National Fish Habitat Board Meeting
October 18-19, 2017
Agenda and Board Book Tabs**

Please Note: All Times are in MOUNTAIN DAYLIGHT TIME

South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks
Outdoor Campus West
4130 Adventure Tr.
Rapid City, South Dakota 57702

Conference line: 800.768.2983, **Passcode:** 8383462

Wednesday Web link: <https://cc.callinfo.com/r/1rzyvb44iz76q&eom>

Thursday Web link: <https://cc.callinfo.com/r/1mmcu54a9h7i2&eom>

Wednesday, October 18

8:30-8:45	<u>Welcome</u>		Kelly Hepler (<i>SD Game, Fish and Parks</i>)
8:45 – 9:00	<u>Introductions and 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 – Florida FWCC</i>)
9:00-9:15	<u>Executive Leadership Team (ELT) Update</u> <i>Desired outcome:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Board understanding of ELT National Fish Habitat Board member decision.		Ron Regan (<i>Board Member-Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies</i>)
9:15 – 10:00	<u>NFHP Project Tracking Database Update</u> <i>Desired outcomes:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Board awareness of the status of the Project Tracking Database and funding needs.	Tab 2	Kate Sherman (<i>Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission</i>)
10:00 – 10:15	<u>Break</u>		
10:15 -11:15	<u>FHP Performance Evaluation</u> <i>Desired outcomes:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Board awareness of the questions, responses, and lessons learned from 2015.• Board awareness of revision progress for 2018 Performance Evaluation.	Tab 3	Bryan Moore (<i>Board Proxy – Trout Unlimited</i>)

11:15 – 12:00	<u>Fish Habitat Partnership Presentation</u>	Jessica Graham (Southeast Aquatic Resources Partnership)
	<i>Desired outcome:</i>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board awareness of the accomplishments and challenges facing the FHP. 	
12:00 – 1:00	<u>Lunch</u>	
1:00 – 1:15	<u>AFS Update</u>	Gary Whelan (SDC Co-chair – MI DNR)
	<i>Desired outcome:</i>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board awareness of content, participation, and outcomes of Science Symposium, Film Festival, and general NFHP presence. 	
1:15 - 2:00	<u>Science and Data Committee Report</u>	Tab 4 Gary Whelan (SDC Co-chair – MI DNR)
	<i>Desired outcomes:</i>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board understanding of committee accomplishments as they relate to 2017 Board Priorities. • Board understanding of committee proposed priorities and funding needs for 2018. 	
2:00 – 2:30	<u>Communications Committee Report</u>	Tab 5 Ryan Roberts (Board Staff-AFWA)
	<i>Desired outcomes:</i>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board understanding of committee accomplishments as they relate to 2017 Board Priorities. • Board understanding of committee priorities and funding needs for 2018. 	
2:30 – 3:00	<u>Partnerships Committee Report</u>	Tab 6 Stan Allen (<i>Board Member – PSMFC</i>)
	<i>Desired outcomes:</i>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board understanding of committee accomplishments as they relate to 2017 Board Priorities. • Board understanding of committee priorities and funding needs for 2018. 	
3:00 – 3:15	<u>Break</u>	
3:15 – 3:40	<u>Legislation</u>	Tab 7 Christy Plumer (<i>Board Member-Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership</i>)
	<i>Desired outcomes:</i>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board awareness of any changes in the current bill language. • Board awareness of status and expectations for this/next congress. 	
3:40- 3:50	<u>Secretarial MOU</u>	Emily Greene (<i>Board Staff – NOAA-ERT</i>)
	<i>Desired outcome:</i>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board awareness of MOU status. 	

3:50 – 4:20	<u>Multi-state Conservation Grant Program</u> <i>Desired outcomes:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board awareness of the 2018 grant application. • Board discussion of the Multi-state Conservation Grant approach for future years. 	Tab 8	Ryan Roberts (<i>Board Staff – AFWA</i>)
4:20 – 5:00	<u>Beyond the Pond Update</u> <i>Desired outcome:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board awareness of progress to date and next steps. • Board awareness of SEAK proposal. 	Tab 9	Ryan Roberts (<i>Board Staff – AFWA</i>)
5:30 – 7:00	<u>Social @ Murphy’s Pub and Grill</u> 510 9th Street Rapid City, SD 57701		
Thursday, October 19			
8:30 – 9:00	<u>Board Member Interviews</u>		
9:00 – 9:20	<u>World Recreational Fishing Conference</u> <i>Desired outcomes:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board awareness of presentations and discussions. 	Tab 10	Emily Greene (<i>Board Staff – NOAA-ERT</i>)
9:20 – 10:20	<u>Board 2018 Priorities and Draft Budget</u> <i>Desired outcomes:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board understanding of the draft budget and Federal inkind contributions. • Board understanding 2016 Priorities with consideration of the budget and the National Fish Habitat Action Plan Objectives. 	Tab 11	Ryan Roberts (<i>Board staff – AFWA</i>) and Emily Greene (<i>Board Staff NOAA-ERT</i>)
10:20 – 10:30	<u>Break</u>		
10:30 – 10:50	<u>USFS F&A Stewardship Strategy Update</u> <i>Desired outcome:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board understanding of the status of comments and strategy development. 	Tab 12	Dan Shively (<i>Board Member Proxy – US Forest Service</i>)
10:50 – 11:15	<u>Ten Waters to Watch Discussion</u> <i>Desired outcome:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board discussion of the status of the program, brainstorm new approaches to re-invigorate. 		Ryan Roberts (<i>Board Staff – AFWA</i>)



11:15 – 11:30 National Fish Habitat Board Leadership

Desired outcome:

- **Board action** on National Fish Habitat Board leadership (**elect new chair and vice chair**).

Ron Regan (*Board Member – AFWA*)

11:30 – 11:40 Wrap-up

11:40 – 12:00 Field trip Presentation

12:00 – 12:30 Lunch

12:30 - 3:30 Field Trip: Pactola Reservoir and Rapid Creek

The Board will tour restoration sites on Rapid Creek below the Pactola Reservoir where fish habitat was restored through stream complexity and bank stabilization work.

Draft National Fish Habitat Board Webinar Summary: June 28, 2017	
Members present:	
Peter Aarrestad (NEAFWA)	Bryan Moore <i>for</i> Chris Wood (TU)
Stan Allen (PSMFC)	Chris Moore (MAFMC)
Mike Andrews (TNC)	Doug Norton <i>for</i> Benita Best-Wong (EPA)
Tom Bigford (AFS)	Scott Peets <i>for</i> Rob Harper (USFS)
Doug Boyd (private citizen)	Sam Rauch (NOAA Fisheries)
Tom Champeau (At-Large State Seat)	Ed Schriever (WAFWA)
Ross Melinchuk (SEAFWA)	
Members absent:	
Doug Beard (USGS), Jim Kurth (USFWS), Jim Leach (MAFWA), Mike Leonard (ASA), Fred Matt (NAFWS), Christy Plumer (TRCP), Ron Regan (AFWA), and Sean Stone (CCA).	
Approved by consensus:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • March Board meeting summary • June Board webinar agenda 	
Approved by motion:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NFHP Document of Interdependence; motion by Bryan Moore, seconded by Tom Bigford; unanimous approval. • Support NFHP Assessment as laid out in the recommendation: <i>Based upon all of the feedback provided at the last two Board meetings and the associated surveys of all NFHP groups, the Science and Data Committee (SDC) recommendation is the Board approve moving forward with a combination of Assessment Options 2 and 3 which includes: an updated National Fish Habitat Assessment using revisions of current data layers for inland waters; a focus on hydrology and connectivity both nationally and regionally for the Inland Assessment; continued refinement of the Great Lakes Coastal Assessment; and a focus on strictly regional assessments for the Marine Coastal Assessment;</i> motion by Ross Melinchuk, seconded by Mike Andrews; unanimous approval. • Comments [on USDA Forest Service National Fish and Aquatic Stewardship Strategy] to submit to Forest Service for consideration; motion by Ross Melinchuk, seconded by Ed Schriever; NMFS abstains. 	
Updates and discussions:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Welcome and Housekeeping</u> – Chairman Tom Champeau noted that USFWS personnel would not be participating on the call, a decision which stems from a Department of Interior Secretarial Order. He clarified that this Order would not affect funding going out to the Partnerships. Major follow-up discussion focused on another policy affecting projects over \$100k, whether other Agencies are following the lead of USFWS, and if there was anything that could be done to demonstrate support of NFHP. • <u>Future Meetings</u> – Staff noted that the next Board meeting would be held on October 18 (full day) and October 19 (half day) in Rapid City, South Dakota. A field trip is planned for the afternoon of the 19th. Details pertaining to hotel reservations and travel are forthcoming. There is general interest in a FHP workshop, but currently there isn't fiscal support for it. • <u>Executive Leadership Team Update</u> – It was noted that the Executive Leadership Team had approved several Board members. These reappointed individuals are as follows: Doug Boyd (Sport Fishing and Boating Partnership Council), Christy Plumer (Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership), Sean Stone (Coastal Conservation Association), and Chris Wood (Trout Unlimited). Tom Bigford noted that Tom Lang would be taking his place as AFS representative on the National Fish Habitat Board in August. • <u>Partnerships Committee</u>– A summary of how the Document of Interdependence was created, including several opportunities for comment, was provided. It was noted that the document is within the spirit of 	

existing documents and that it is a living document that can be updated when existing documents are updated.

- Science and Data Committee Update – The Board was presented with a summary of the recent FHP assessment survey results, a summary of four potential habitat assessment implementation options, and a recommended path forward. Proposed assessment products, process, and timeline were also presented. Follow-up discussion focused on short and long term funding support.
- Legislative Update – The Government Affairs Director at AFWA made the Board aware that S.1436 had been introduced by Senators Cardin and Crapo and the hope is that it would be rolled up in the Sportman’s Package and moved out of committee after the July recess. It was noted that the introduced bill is the same as the bill that passed the Senate last year, but that it may undergo some tweaks. Follow-up discussion centered on the timing for gaining additional cosponsors and outreach materials that are in development.
- Budget and Finance Committee – The Board was informed that a LOI for Multistate Conservation Grant funding had been submitted on behalf of the Partnerships, the last of a three-year commitment to apply collectively. The Board was made aware of the total funding request, the FHPs involved, and the inclusion of funding for program support at the nation level, if needed. Major follow-up discussion included the need to pull together the FHPs to discuss how to proceed at the end of the current 3-year period. It was also noted that NOAA provides support to the Board and is currently working to provide funds to three FHPs.
- Forest Service Fisheries Plan – Chairman Tom Champeau drew the Board’s attention to the NFHP comments to the Forest Service Fisheries Plan. These comments focus on using the National Fish Habitat Board and individual Fish Habitat Partnership to help guide and achieve the goals of the Forest Service’s Fish and Aquatic Stewardship Strategy and the importance of coordinating with state fish and wildlife agencies and their distinctive statutory authorities.
- Communications Committee Update – Staff updated the Board on recent additions to the website, including social media icons and an online donation page, and an ongoing effort to populate the 10 Waters to Watch archive. It’s expected that the 2017 10 Waters to Watch timeline may shift back due to the current low number of submissions. It was also noted that recent funding from BassPro will go towards the development of a NFHP video that will include interviews with Board members and Fish Habitat Partnerships. The Board then viewed a demonstration of the recently released NFHP storymap, which is available for exploring at www.fishhabitat.org.
- Meeting Wrap-up – It was noted that the USFWS FY17 funding allocations are included in the Board Book. Follow-up discussion centered around an interest in working with the 501c3 Board to find funding outside of USFWS.

Action items:

- Staff will provide details pertaining to hotel reservations and travel for the October Board meeting.
- Staff will make the final Document of Interdependence available on the web within the next 2-3 weeks.
- AFWA is developing a press release on the recent legislation, and a coalition is developing a one-pager for circulation.
- Partnerships Committee will make a recommendation on approach for applying for future MSCG funding.
- When appropriate, staff will develop a news release reflecting recent NOAA funding to three FHPs.
- The Chairman will develop a strategy and game plan with respect to the DOI Secretarial Order.

Future Board meetings (2017):

- Summer Introductory Call for new members (Date TBD)

- October 18-19 (Rapid City, South Dakota)

Board approved documents:

- March Board meeting summary
- *NFHP Document of Interdependence*
- *NFHP Comments to USDA Forest Service National Fish and Aquatic Stewardship Strategy*

Additional attendees:

Julie Carter (WNTI)
Jessica Graham (SARP)
Emily Greene (Board Staff – NOAA contract)
Deborah Hart (SEAK FHP)
Lisa Havel (ACFHP)
Pat Montanio (NOAA-NMFS)
Joe Nohner (MGLP)
Steve Perry (EBTJV)
Ryan Roberts (Board Staff - AFWA)
Dan Shively (USFS)
Gary Whelan (SDC Co-Chair - MI DNR)

DRAFT

National Fish Habitat Board Meetings 2018-2019

Year	Date	Location	Comments
	January 17 (Wed)	Tele/web conference	Annual budget & priorities
	March 7-8 (Wed-Thurs)	Washington, DC Area	Reserve room at TU HQ
	June 27 (Wed)	Tele/web conference	
	Summer (TBD)	Tele/web conference	Introductory call for new members.
	October 17-18 (Wed-Thurs)	Texas?	
	January 16 (Wed)	Tele/web conference	Annual budget & priorities
	March 13-14 (Wed-Thurs)	Washington, DC Area	
	June 26 (Wed)	Tele/web conference	
	Summer (TBD)	Tele/web conference	Introductory call for new members.
	October 16-17 (Wed-Thurs)	Coastal MI (Great Lakes)? Hawaii? Seattle, WA?	

Record of Past Board Meetings 2006-2016

Year	Date	Location	Facility
	September 22	Aspen, Colorado	Hotel
	November 16	Washington, DC	Hall of States
	January 16	Teleconference	
	March 1-2	Washington, DC	Environmental Protection Agency
	June 6-7	Washington, DC	Commerce Department
	October 2-3	Arlington, VA	Hotel
	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
	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
	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
	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
	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
	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
	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
	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
	January 20	Tele/web conference	
	March 8-9	Arlington, VA	The Nature Conservancy
	June 29	Tele/web conference	
	October 26-27	Panama City, FL	
	January 18	Tele/web conference	
	March 21	Rosslyn, VA	Trout Unlimited Offices
	June 28	Tele/web conference	
	August 29	Tele/web conference	Introductory call for new members and interested individuals.
	October 18-19	Rapid City, SD	South Dakota Game, Fish & Parks

Total: 48 regularly scheduled meetings (in-person and teleconference) held to date. 2 introductory calls for new members held to date.

Title: NFHP Project Tracking Database Update

Desired outcome:

- Board awareness of the status of the NFHP Project Tracking Database and funding needs.

Background:

In 2010, a grant of \$100,000 was provided to PSMFC from USGS via National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to develop a NFHP project tracking database. In 2015, a grant of \$10,912 from NOAA funded basic operation and maintenance of the system through the end of the calendar year. In 2016, an additional grant of \$19,000 from USGS funded transfer the housing of the database and basic maintenance and operations of the system. This database will:

- Allow the Board, FHPs, and all partners to exchange project information.
- Allow online submission of project information; management and retrieval of information; geographic information system (GIS) outputs; and project progress reporting.
- Allow expansion and modification as the national program and the regional partnerships evolve.

Update:

From October 2015 to December 2016, there was a gap in funding which delayed work on the project. Funding was received in December 2016, and PSMFC employee Robin Carlson passed the role of project coordinator on to PSMFC employee Kate Sherman. The housing for the database transferred to database staff at PSMFC headquarters in Portland, Oregon.

In the spring of 2017, PSMFC received an output of project information from USFWS's FIS database for projects conducted between 2012-2016. These data provide basic information about NFHP funded projects, and were integrated into the NFHP database. PSMFC began working with partnerships once again to review and update their data in the system; all partnerships have been contacted and PSMFC is in the process of helping each partnership review and update project information. In January 2018, the current version of the NFHP project tracking database will be ready for use by the partnerships and the Board for accomplishment reporting purposes. Please note: there are still bugs in the user interface, and the quality of the outputs of the database depends on the extent of review and updates by FHP coordinators, which is still in progress.

PSMFC has developed a work plan for management and improvements of the user-interface and reporting over the next year. The work plan and budget options will be presented to the Board during the October meeting.

Work Plan for CY 2018:

- 1) Work directly with Partnership coordinators to assist with the Board's 2018 Performance Evaluation and the USFWS-NFHP Reporting.
- 2) Work directly with Partnerships and NFHP staff to improve and fill data gaps in current project progress and performance measures in the NFHP system, including location information;
- 3) Assist Partnerships with data management plans and maintain a help service for Partnerships working with their data on the system;
- 4) Improve reporting capabilities of the system;

- 5) Develop a geographic information system (GIS) outputs using web map services;
- 6) Maintain the database on PSMFC servers, including server maintenance, server updates, and data backups.

Budget:

- Minimum funding to assist Partnership coordinators and the Board's 2018 Performance Evaluation and the USFWS-NFHP Reporting (Task 1) is \$7,000.
- Funding for all of the above tasks totals \$20,000 and can be completed in one year (CY 2018).

Title: Fish Habitat Partnership Performance Evaluation

Desired outcome(s):

- **Board awareness** of the questions, responses, and lessons learned from 2015
- **Board approval** of NFHP staff and/or Board leadership participation in an international habitat information sharing forum

Background:

To uphold the high standards set by the Action Plan, the National Fish Habitat Board (Board) adopted a set of ten measures aimed at evaluating Fish Habitat Partnership performance levels for core operational functions (i.e., coordination, scientific assessment, strategic planning, data management, project administration, communications, and outreach). At its July 2012 meeting, the Board voted to begin the first “formal” performance evaluation of Fish Habitat Partnerships in January 2015, covering a 3-year period (2012-2014), and to repeat this process every 3 years thereafter.

Results from the 2015 Process were as follows:

- Measures where FHPs demonstrated excellent progress:
 1. How well FHP projects focused on addressing FHP and/national conservation priorities.
 3. How well FHP projects focused on protecting vulnerable fish habitats and causes for declines.
 4. How well FHP project funding was matched by non-NFHP and federal dollars.
 6. How well FHPs engaged with other FHPs and/or regional conservation programs.
 7. How well FHPs used resource condition assessments to prioritize projects.
- Measures where FHPs demonstrated good progress:
 2. How well FHPs used effectiveness measures to document outcomes of projects.
 5. How well FHPs used minimum benchmarks for prioritizing projects.
 8. How well FHPs engaged in external outreach.
- Measures where FHPs demonstrated fair progress:
 9. How well FHPs coordinated with NFHP Science and Data Committee.
 10. Progress made achieving FHP’s conservation priorities.

Additional findings from the 2015 evaluation process were as follows:

- Overall, FHP coordinators and committee members felt the process was fair and accurately measured three year progress.
- Follow-up conversations between the evaluation team and FHPs was extremely beneficial.
- FHPs that have been established longer have a scoring advantage over newer FHPs; however, the process can help inform and assist in FHP development and improvement.
- The Board process and USFWS are somewhat duplicative with main difference in the Board process occurs every three years and the USFWS reviews annually.
- The completion of the Project Tracking Database will allow NFHP staff to compile results for measures 1 – 4.
- FHPs differ in their approach and strategy as some are focused on providing data from assessments to influence project development of other entities, while other FHPs may focus on a combination of assessments, on-the-ground projects, or other FHP responsibilities.

- Re-wording several of the measures will improve clarity and provide more consistent results for the next evaluation.
- Better coordination and communication between FHPs and the NFHP Science and Data Committee is needed to address expectation and data submission lapses.
- Confusion over the objectives of this evaluation needs to be reduced. This first Board evaluation was intended to inform the Board on FHP progress and test this evaluation process. Most FHPs thought the Board would use the results to prioritize funding. While this could be an objective for future evaluations, we should have made this clear that funding allocations would not be influenced by the 2015 evaluation.

Recommendations from the 2015 Review Team to the Board were as follows:

1. The 2015 FHP Evaluation Team recommends that this evaluation process be improved and repeated in 2018.
2. The Partnership Committee should include interested FHP Coordinators and Review Team members to consider and recommend improvements to the performance measure wording and overall evaluation process for Board consideration during 2016.

Update:

- The Tri-chairs of the Partnerships Committee convened via conference call in July of 2017 to discuss a process for upholding the recommendations adopted by the Board in 2015.
- During the All-FHP conference call on July 27, 2017 the Partnership Committee Tri-Chairs informed the coordinators that they would be forming a subcommittee responsible for reviewing and recommending improvements to the 2015 performance evaluation measures and process for 2018 and that they were looking for FHP coordinators volunteers to participate.
- On August 7th the Partnerships Committee Tri-Chairs reached out to 2015 Review Team members to volunteer on a working group that will consider and recommend improvements to the performance measure wording and overall evaluation process for 2018.
- The 2018 Fish Habitat Partnership Evaluation Working Group has met via conference call twice: September 6 and September 18. It will meet a third time on October 25.
- The Work Group has focused its efforts on comments collected by staff during the 2015 Performance Review process. Some comments could be addressed with fairly minor edits, while others required more significant revisions.
- The Work Group has agreed upon revisions to measures #1-5 and #7-9 (shown in the attached), and will consider revisions to measures #6, #10, and a potential new measure during its upcoming October call.

2018 Fish Habitat Partnership Evaluation Work Group:

Lisa Havel (Atlantic Coastal Fish Habitat Partnership)
Jeff Boxrucker (Reservoir Fish Habitat Partnership)
Therese Thompson* (Western Native Trout Initiative)
Gary Whelan (MI Department of Natural Resources)
Tom Bigford (American Fisheries Society)
Stan Allen* (Pacific Marine and Estuarine Partnership)
Brian Moore* (Trout Unlimited)
*Partnerships Committee Tri-Chairs

Timeline:

- FHP Performance Evaluation work group will meet for its third call on October 25 to finish deliberations
- A draft of the 2018 performance evaluation measures will be sent out for full Partnership Committee review in November; draft changes to be made in advance of the national FHP call on Nov 16
- FHPs will then receive the 2018 performance evaluation measures as approved by Partnership Committee and asked for comments
- The 2018 performance measures and timeline will be ready for consideration and approval at the January 2018 NFHP Board meeting. At this same meeting, the Board will also need to determine which Board members and staff will be the Review Team.
- Opportunity for Review Team to meet with FHPs at March Board meeting to go over questions and/or Review Team members available to talk to FHPs as needed before the review process starts
- FHP reports will be due back to Review Team in late May
- Review Team will score each FHP and then meet with FHP leadership to discuss score/further explanation
- Draft report by Review Team to the NFHP Board at October 2018 Board meeting
- NFHP Board approves final report by Review Team at January 2019 Board meeting

Briefing Book Materials:

Tab 3b Initial 2018 Performance Evaluation Revisions



Evaluating Fish Habitat Partnership Performance

Introduction

The National Fish Habitat Partnership is an unprecedented effort to build and support partnerships that are strategically focused on fish habitat conservation. The National Fish Habitat Action Plan (Action Plan) guides this initiative and establishes processes for bringing partners together, challenging them to collaboratively advance strategic priorities, as well as measure and report on the outcomes of their conservation actions. The geographic scope and focus on fish habitat conservation distinguishes the National Fish Habitat Partnership from other more local fish habitat initiatives.

To uphold the high standards set by the Action Plan, the National Fish Habitat Board (Board) adopted a set of ten measures aimed at evaluating Fish Habitat Partnership performance levels for core operational functions (i.e., coordination, scientific assessment, strategic planning, data management, project administration, communications, and outreach). At its July 2012 meeting, the Board voted to begin the first “formal” performance evaluation of Fish Habitat Partnerships in January 2015, covering a 3-year period (2012-2014), and to repeat this process every 3 years thereafter.

Performance Evaluation Process

Each Fish Habitat Partnership will submit a completed performance evaluation form by May XX, 2018~~March 31, 2015~~. A Board-appointed team will assess each partnership’s responses to the ten measures and rate their level of performance using a scale of 1 (low) to 4 (high). The performance evaluation outcomes will be sent to each Fish Habitat Partnership for their review and response prior to being finalized by the team.

Performance measures 1–5 are focused on fish habitat conservation projects, which are defined as (a) approved actions taken for the conservation or management of aquatic habitat for fish and other aquatic organisms; (b) the provision of technical assistance to states, Indian tribes, or local communities to facilitate the development of strategies and priorities for aquatic habitat conservation; and, (c) the obtaining of real property interest in lands or waters, including water rights, if the obtaining of such interest is subject to terms and conditions that will ensure the real property will be administered for the long-term conservation of such lands and waters and the fish dependent thereon. Real property interest means any ownership interest in lands or a building or an object that is permanently affixed to land.

Performance Evaluation Form Instructions

Please provide a complete description of the information requested for each performance measure as the review team will rely on your responses when assessing your partnership’s level of performance. The time period that is being covered by this performance evaluation is Federal Fiscal Years ~~2014-2016~~ (October 1, 201~~3~~⁹ – September 30, 201~~6~~³) for measures 1- 4 and calendar years ~~2012-2014~~ (January 1, 201~~2~~⁵ – December 31, 201~~4~~⁷) for measures 5-10.



Fish Habitat Performance Evaluation Form

1. For federal fiscal years ~~2014~~-201~~3~~6, list the title of each of your partnership's fish habitat conservation projects that:
 - a. Used National Fish Habitat Action Plan (NFHAP) funding sources (e.g., US Fish & Wildlife Service); or,
 - b. Your partnership developed and were funded by non-NFHAP sources; or,
 - c. Were neither funded by NFHAP sources nor developed by your partnership, but were formally endorsed by your partnership.

For each project listed, identify the project type (a, b, or c) as well as the specific FHP and/or national conservation priority as stated in your FHP's planning/strategic/action or implementation document(s)-(i.e., geographic focus areas, priority habitat types, key stressors or impairments) the project addresses-

The following information should be provided for each Fish Habitat Conservation Project:

- o Federal Fiscal Year the project was funded or endorsed
- o Project title
- o Project type
- o Project location
- o FHP conservation priority, as stated in your FHP's planning/strategic/action or implementation document(s), being addressed along with a narrative that details how it is being addressed by the project
- o National conservation strategy/ies being addressed along with a narrative that details how it is being addressed by the project. The national conservation strategies can be found here.
- o Why the project was endorsed by your FHP (if applicable)

The Performance Review Team will use the criteria listed below to guide its assessment of performance for this measure.

- a. Less than 70% of the fish habitat conservation projects clearly focused on addressing FHP and/or national conservation strategies (1 point).
- b. 70% to 79% of the fish habitat conservation projects clearly focused on addressing FHP and/or national conservation strategies (2 points).
- c. 80% to 89% of the fish habitat conservation projects clearly focused on addressing FHP and/or national conservation strategies (3 points).



- d. 90% or more of the fish habitat conservation projects clearly focused on addressing FHP and/or national conservation strategies (4 points).

2-2) Describe the monitoring /evaluation plan being used to measure success in achieving the expected conservation outcomes* for each on-the-ground fish habitat conservation project listed under Performance Measure 1. Monitoring/evaluation plan descriptions are not required for communications, operations, or assessment projects for this criterion. (*Outcomes represent “a desired future state” while outputs are “immediate project products.” Providing fish in a stream unimpeded access to spawning habitat is a conservation outcome, whereas removing a manmade barrier is a project output.)

The following information should be provided for each Fish Habitat Conservation Project:

- Project title
- Expected conservation outcome
- Description of the monitoring/evaluation plan

The Performance Review Team will use the criteria listed below to guide its assessment of performance for this measure.

- a. Less than 70% of the on-the-ground fish habitat conservation projects have an effective monitoring/evaluation plan (1 point).
- b. 70% to 79% of the on-the-ground fish habitat conservation projects have an effective monitoring/evaluation plan (2 points).
- c. 80% to 89% of the on-the-ground fish habitat conservation projects have an effective monitoring/evaluation plan (3 points).
- d. 90% or more of the on-the-ground fish habitat conservation projects have an effective monitoring/evaluation plan (4 points).

3) Describe vulnerable fish habitat being protected **or** the causes of and processes influencing fish habitat decline that are being addressed by each fish habitat conservation project listed under Performance Measure 1.

The following information should be provided for each Fish Habitat Conservation Project:

- o Project title
- o Vulnerable fish habitat being protected, as defined in your FHP's planning/strategic/action or implementation document(s) (e.g. placing land in conservation easement). Please include the vulnerable habitat description or link to the definition in your strategic plan.

OR

- o Causes of and processes influencing ~~the vulnerable~~ fish habitat decline being addressed (e.g. planting riparian buffers to minimize polluted run-off from entering a stream and negatively affecting water quality), recognizing that it may not be feasible for an individual FHP to address the larger cause or causes of the habitat decline.

The Performance Review Team will use the criteria listed below to guide its assessment of performance for this measure.

- a. Less than 70% of the fish habitat conservation projects clearly focus on protecting vulnerable fish habitats **or** addressing the causes/processes behind its decline (1 point).
- b. 70% to 79% of the fish habitat conservation projects clearly focus on protecting vulnerable fish habitats **or** addressing the causes/processes behind its decline (2 points).
- c. 80% to 89% of the fish habitat conservation projects clearly focus on protecting vulnerable fish habitats **or** addressing the causes/processes behind its decline (3 points).
- d. 90% or more of the fish habitat conservation projects clearly focus on protecting vulnerable fish habitats **or** addressing the causes/processes behind its decline (4 points).

4) For the fish habitat conservation projects listed under Performance Measure 1, what is the amount of NFHAP funds (i.e., US Fish and Wildlife Service NFHAP funds) allocated in support of these projects, and what is the total amount of funding from all other sources?

The following information should be provided for each Fish Habitat Conservation Project:

- Project title
- Amount of NFHAP funds supporting the project
- Amount of other federal funds supporting the project
- Amount of non-federal funds supporting the project
- If pertinent, also include a description of how funding the project assisted with generating additional sources of non-NFHAP funding that is being targeted towards your partnership's priorities. For example, using NFHAP funds for a fish habitat conservation project that subsequently lead to a new funding source devoted to addressing one or more of your priorities.

Summary information:

Provide the percentage of projects listed under Performance Measure 1 with higher than 2:1 non-NFHAP:NFHAP funding.

Provide the total sum of non-NFHAP funding for all projects listed under Performance Measure 1.

Provide the total sum of NFHP funding for all projects listed under Performance Measure 1.

The Performance Review Team will use the criteria listed below to guide its assessment of performance for this measure.

- a. In aggregate, non-NFHAP funding (including the value of new sources of funding that were generated by the project) for these fish habitat conservation projects was less than NFHAP funding (1 point).
- b. In aggregate, non-NFHAP funding (including the value of new sources of funding that were generated by the project) for these fish habitat conservation projects was equal to or up to 1.5 times higher than NFHAP funding (2 points).
- c. In aggregate, non-NFHAP funding (including the value of new sources of funding that were generated by the project) for these fish habitat conservation projects was more than 1.5 and up to 2.0 times higher than NFHAP (3 points).
- d. In aggregate, non-NFHAP funding (including the value of new sources of funding that were generated by the project) for these fish habitat conservation projects was more than 2.0 times higher than NFHAP funding (4 points).



5) Please provide a copy of the criteria your partnership currently uses to prioritize fish habitat conservation projects for funding.

The Performance Review Team will use the criteria listed below to guide its assessment of performance for this measure. [The NFHP Board's minimum benchmark set of criteria can be found here.](#)

- a. Less than 70% of the Board's minimum benchmark set of criteria are being used by the partnership to prioritize fish habitat conservation projects for funding (1 point).
- b. 70% to 79% of the Board's minimum benchmark set of criteria are being used by the partnership to prioritize fish habitat conservation projects for funding (2 points).
- c. 80% to 89% of the Board's minimum benchmark set of criteria are being used by the partnership to prioritize fish habitat conservation projects for funding (3 points).
- d. 90% or more of the Board's minimum benchmark set of criteria are being used by the partnership to prioritize fish habitat conservation projects for funding (4 points).

3-2.6 Describe the ways your partnership has engaged with neighboring/overlapping Fish Habitat Partnerships and/or other regional natural resource conservation entities during the past three years (2012-2014) and what these engagements produced for outcomes (e.g. reduced redundancy, enhanced message delivery or access to a larger outreach audience, greater geographic coverage).

Commented [EG1]: Revisions to this measure are underway.

The following information should be included in your response:

- o Name of the Fish Habitat Partnership/regional natural resource conservation entity engaged.
- o Type of engagement activity or activities (building awareness, coordination, collaboration) that occurred with each Fish Habitat Partnership/regional natural resource conservation entity.
- o The outcome achieved by each engagement activity.

The Performance Review Team will use the criteria listed below to guide its assessment of performance for this measure and the score will be cumulative, with each type of outcome (a-d) listed below being worth 1 point. The maximum number of 4 points will be assigned if a Fish Habitat Partnership has achieved outcomes for all four criteria.

- a. The engagement outcomes with neighboring/overlapping FHPs and/or other regional natural resource conservation entities improved the capacity for building awareness (1 point).
- b. The engagement outcomes with neighboring/overlapping FHPs and/or other regional natural resource conservation entities improved the coordination of mutually beneficial activities (1 point).
- c. The engagement outcomes with neighboring/overlapping FHPs and/or other regional natural resource conservation entities included generating collaboration that improved the delivery of a conservation action (1 point).
- d. The engagement outcomes with neighboring/overlapping FHPs and/or other regional natural resource conservation entities increased the geographic scale of a conservation action (1 point).

7) Describe how your partnership uses resource condition assessment and/or analysis results to determine your conservation priorities and to identify the actions they require.

The following information should be included in your response:

- o Title of the resource condition assessment(s) and/or analysis(es) used by your partnership along with the date(s) it (they) were completed.
- o A listing of the conservation priorities, and the actions they require, determined by the resource condition assessment and/or analysis results.

The Performance Review Team will use the criteria listed below to guide its assessment of performance for this measure. The maximum number of 4 points will be assigned if a Fish Habitat Partnership has achieved outcomes for criteria b-d, otherwise points are assigned and totalled across all criteria met.

- a. The partnership has not used resource condition assessment and/or analysis results to assist with determining their conservation priorities and identifying the actions they require (~~1~~0 points).
- b. The partnership has used resource condition assessment and/or analysis results to assist with either determining their conservation priorities or identifying the actions they require (2 points).
- c. The partnership has used resource condition assessment and/or analysis results to assist with determining both their conservation priorities and identifying the actions they require (~~3~~1 points).
- d. The partnership has further refined their conservation priorities and/or the actions they require through best available newly acquired resource condition assessment and/or analysis results (~~4~~1 points).

8) Describe your partnership's outreach activities aimed at: 1) sharing information about your strategic priorities (i.e., geographic focus areas, habitat types, key stressors or impairments); 2) building broader visibility among local and regional partners; 3) tailoring events to garner media coverage; and 4) strengthening relationships with policy-makers. (Note: strengthening relationships with policy-makers does not include direct lobbying to members of legislatures but may include activities such as, but not limited to, your FHP providing information to individuals at state or federal governmental agencies that is then used to inform policy recommendations or decisions, providing information to AFWA regional association committee or leadership, etc.).

The Performance Review Team will use the outreach criteria categories listed below to guide its assessment of performance for this measure. Fish Habitat Partnerships whose activities includes only one of these criteria categories will receive 1 point; use of two criteria categories will receive 2 points; use of three criteria categories will receive 3 points; and, use of all four criteria categories will receive 4 points.

- a. The partnership's outreach activities were limited to information sharing (1 point).
- b. The partnership's outreach activities included building broader visibility among local and regional partners (1 point).
- c. The partnership's outreach activities included events to garner media coverage (1 point).
- d. The partnership's outreach activities included strengthening relationships with policy- makers (1 point).

9) Describe the ways your partnership coordinated its aquatic resource data and regional assessment information with the NFHP Science and Data Committee during the past 3 years (2012-2017).

The following information/documents should be included in your response:

- o The regional data sets and/or conservation outcomes you provided for integration into the NFHP National Assessment. Please provide a link to where the dataset(s) are housed or may be viewed (do not attach datasets to this report).
- o Documents your partnership produced that provide details about the effectiveness of the conservation outcomes supported by your partnership.

The Performance Review Team will use the criteria listed below to guide its assessment of performance for this measure with a total of 4 points maximum.

- ~~a. The partnership's efforts to facilitate information exchange with the NFHP Science and Data Committee were minimal (1 point).~~
- ~~b. The partnership facilitated information exchange with the NFHP Science and Data Committee by providing either regional data sets or conservation outcomes for integration into the NFHP National Assessment (2 points).~~
- ~~c. The partnership facilitated information exchange with the NFHP Science and Data Committee by providing regional data sets and conservation outcomes for integration into the NFHP National Assessment (3 points).~~
- ~~d. The partnership facilitated information exchange with the NFHP Science and Data Committee by providing regional data sets and conservation outcomes for integration into the NFHP National Assessment, and produced documents that provide details about the effectiveness of the conservation actions supported by the partnership (4 points).~~
- a. The FHP coordinated with the NFHP Science and Data Committee by providing FHP science and data updates, either in writing or verbally, to the NFHP Science and Data Committee at minimum twice per year (1 point).
- b. The FHP provided datasets to the NFHP Science and Data Committee, either those directly requested by the NFHP Science and Data Committee or new datasets developed by the FHP, for future inclusion in the National Fish Assessment (1 point).
- c. The FHP directly involved and worked with the NFHP Science and Data Committee in the development of FHP habitat assessment products or in ensuring the National Assessment properly addressed FHP needs (1 point).
- d. The FHP provided either data products or written materials directly used in the National Fish Habitat Assessment Report (1 point).

Optional Points that could be used to replace points lost above.



1. The FHP provided reviews and comments of the 2015 National Assessment products (1 point).
2. The FHP provided scoping information to assist in the development of the next National Assessment (1 point).
3. The FHP responded to the Science and Data Committee survey on the direction for the next National Assessment (1 point).

10List your partnership's conservation priorities (i.e., geographic focus areas, habitat types, key stressors or impairments) and describe the progress that has been made toward achieving these priorities during the past 3 years (2012-2014).

Commented [EG2]: Revisions to this measure are underway.

The following information should be included in your response:

- Separate listings for short-term and long-term conservation priorities.
- Target dates for achieving each conservation priority.
- Current status of achieving each conservation priority by its target date (i.e. ahead of schedule, on schedule, behind schedule).
- Efforts underway within the partnership that are focused on addressing each conservation priority.

The Performance Review Team will use the criteria listed below to guide its assessment of performance for this measure.

- a. Less than 50% of the partnership's conservation priorities are on track for achievement by their target dates (1 point).
- b. 50% to 69% of the partnership's conservation priorities are on track for achievement by their target dates (2 points).
- c. 70% to 89% of the partnership's conservation priorities are on track for achievement by their target dates (3 points).
- d. 90% or more of the partnership's conservation priorities are on track for achievement by their target dates (4 points).

Title: Science and Data Committee Report for 2017-18

Desired outcome:

- **Board understanding** of Science and Data Committee accomplishments as they relate to 2017 Board Priorities
- **Board understanding** of Science and Data Committee proposed priorities and funding needs for 2018.

2017 Priorities and Outcomes: During the 2017 meetings of the National Fish Habitat Board the Board endorsed a total of four priority tasks to be led by the Science and Data Committee. The Committee has been implementing these tasks as follows.

Science and Data Priorities for FY2017 Status:

Priority O: Enhancement of the 2015 Assessment

- a) Implemented recommendations made by assessment stakeholders including:
 - i) Adding a map that displays assessment scores only for permanent streams – This layer is complete
 - ii) Making it easier to drill down and retrieve the underlying data sets on which analyses are based – Initial work is complete and improvements continue to be made to allow better data downloads.
 - iii) Packaging and presenting results by state – This task remains to be completed.
- b) Implement report versioning and revision history tracking – This task is in progress.
- c) Implement outreach and education efforts to improve understanding and use of 2015 Assessment products
 - i) Conducted multiple webinars with partners on information that is available.
 - ii) Conducted a workshop at the August 2017 Annual American Fisheries Society Meeting in Tampa Bay that was attended by between 12-15 attendees with 1-2 FHPs in attendance.
 - (1) Demonstrated Assessment abilities with a series of case histories including:
 - (a) Compared Reservoir Assessment results with NFHP Board Assessment results.
 - (b) Developed a national trout analysis which was also presented at the Wild Trout Symposium in September 2017 and will be published in the Symposium Proceedings.
 - (c) Inland lakes analysis
 - (d) Estuary analysis
 - (e) How to use spatial scale effectively with Assessment data.
 - (f) Conservation areas examined at the HUC12 scale.
 - (g) Hawaii system analysis.
 - (2) This workshop will be conducted for the FHPs this fall.
 - iii) Participated in an AFS Annual Meeting Symposium entitled “Multispecies and Watershed Approaches to Freshwater Fish Conservation: Science, Planning, and Implementation” which included many FHPs focused presentations. This will be a published symposium in an AFS book.

Priority P: Planning and Initiation of Future Assessment Work

- a) NFHP Board approved the following Assessment direction in June 2017
 - i) Inland
 - (1) Update the existing Assessment with revised data layers that are currently being used and provide a change metric to show how scores have changed over time. The analytical method will remain unchanged. This work will be reported on in 5 years.
 - (2) Incorporate connectivity and hydrology process layers at either national or regional scales, working closely with the FHPs. This work will be reported on by 2024.
 - ii) Great Lakes
 - (1) Continue current efforts to complete spatial system, habitat classification, and develop habitat response to fish relationships.
 - iii) Coastal
 - (1) Existing 2015 Assessment will not be updated at this time.
 - (2) Develop 1 or more regional assessments based on Essential Fish Habitat constructs. Complete work on these assessments by 2024.
- b) Initiated scoping for hydrology and connectivity processes with FHPs and received detailed input from 6 FHPs to date.

Priority Q: 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 and lack of funds prevented that project from commencing until FY17. This year's work focused on:
 - i) Planning the data system that included: (1) establishing and coordinating a database working group, (2) clarify data and reporting requirements, (3) defining and prioritizing 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
 - iv) Initial development of the data system.

Priority R: Science and Data Committee Travel

The Chair presented on and discussed the National Fish Habitat Assessment at the American Fisheries Society Meeting, the North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference, and the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies annual meeting.

Priority S: Maintaining and improving the NFHP Data System

- a) Ongoing maintenance and hosting - Minor improvements continued to be made
- b) Made new data assets produced for the 2015 Assessment available for downloading.
- c) Adding dynamic querying for FHP and state level data and this is in progress.
- d) We continue to examine if we need to make substantial changes for FY18. For example, 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.

Proposed Science and Data Priorities for FY2018:

1) Continue Outreach Efforts on the 2015 Assessment Products

Budget need: Included as part of Future Assessment Work.

- a) Implemented recommendations made by assessment stakeholders as identified which will include:
 - i) Making it easier to drill down and retrieve the underlying data sets on which analyses are based – Initial work is complete and improvements continue to be made to allow better data downloads
 - ii) Packaging and presenting results by state – This task remains to be completed.
- b) Continue to implement report versioning and revision history tracking – This task is in progress.
- c) Continue to implement outreach and education efforts to improve understanding and use of 2015 Assessment products

2) Planning and Initiation of Future Assessment Work

Budget Need: To fully implement the Assessment development, we request that the USFWS continue to provide the \$156,000 for the inland assessment, and that NOAA provide the committed \$50,000 for the regional assessments along with technical support. The Inland Assessment funding will also support efforts in Task 1.

- a) Implement NFHP Board approved Assessment direction by continuing scoping with FHPs and conducted trial work on selected watersheds.
 - i) Conclude initial scoping on hydrology and connectivity processes with FHP.
- b) Update existing data layers as new information is received.

3) Continue work to complete the NFHP Project Tracking Database

Budget Need: A total of \$20,000 for 2018 is needed to support this work.

- a) Continue development work on project database. This year's work will focus on:
 - i) Continue to oversee data system project using a database working group that will clarify data and reporting requirements and define and prioritize FHP needs for improving the data entry workflow and user interface.
 - ii) Assist partnerships with data entry/upload and data management planning and implementation
 - iii) System maintenance
 - iv) Continued development of a data system.

4) Maintain and improve the NFHP Data System

Budget Need: currently anticipating in-kind support from USGS. Science and Data Committee chairs will meet with USGS in November to fully define FY18 level of support.

- a) Ongoing maintenance and hosting
- b) Make data assets and other products from the 2015 Assessment available for downloading.
- c) Add dynamic querying for FHP and state level data and this is in progress.

- d) Continue to examine if we need to make substantial changes for FY18. For example, 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.

5) Science and Data Committee Operations

Budget Need: \$15,000 to support committee member travel to attend a Science and Data Committee meeting (item b) and \$12,000 to support travel expenses for Science and Data Committee Chair (item c).

- a) Science and Data Committee will meet quarterly by conference call on Assessment direction, Board actions, and Board assignments.
- b) Allow one Science and Data Committee meeting to examine Assessment direction and work on Board assignments.
- c) Allow Science and Data Committee Chair to support Board work and provide outreach and education on Board Science and Data products.

Report Prepared By:

Gary Whelan, MI Department of Natural Resources

Peter Ruhl, US Geological Survey

October 2, 2017

Title: Communications Committee Report

Desired outcome: An informational briefing to the Board on the committee's 2017 work plan and seek consensus on Board's priorities for the committee in 2018.

Background: At its October 2016 Meeting, the Board tasked the communications committee with addressing the following priority issues during 2017:

2017 Priority Progress:

Task A - NFHP website services.

Through the Communications Committee, the below changes/additions were made to the fishhabitat.org website:

1. Noted additions to data sets for the National Fish Habitat Assessment (March) and (August)
2. National Fish Habitat Partnership map addition (June).
3. News story updates including 2018 FHP Request for project proposal resources.
4. NFHP Story Map (May)
5. General page updates

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

Changes to both the National Fish Habitat Partnership and Beyond the Pond websites have better connected the efforts by making it clearer that Beyond the Pond was established as the 501c3 non-profit for the National Fish Habitat Partnership.

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

A successful event (NFHP Film Festival) at the American Fisheries Society Annual Meeting yielded over 150 individual signups for our NFHP newsletter. Name, organization, email address and state is captured through our sign up list.

Task D - Increase usage of video and further campaign to document work of Fish Habitat Partnerships.

In early 2017 the National Fish Habitat Partnership Program secured a \$5,000 donation from Bass Pro Shops to produce a video commemorating the 10-year Anniversary of NFHP. The video will be completed in December 2017.

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

In 2017 we 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 was included in the Help for Wildlife legislation package.

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.

Reviewed by the Communications Committee in early 2017. There were no suggestions for changes to be reviewed by the Board.

Task G - Continue marketing and communications efforts for the 10-year Anniversary of the National Fish Habitat Partnership. The Waters to Watch announcement is expected in December 2017. We had challenges getting the full amount of nominations in for the 2017 list. The Communications Committee also published a story map titled, "Our Fish, Our Future," highlighting our partnerships and projects across the United States. This national story map

builds on earlier maps produced by the [Western Native Trout Initiative](#) and the [Alaska Fish Habitat Partnerships](#).

The National Fish Habitat Partnership story map provided background on the momentum surrounding the National Fish Habitat Partnership effort from its beginning in 2006. The story map also highlights the country across five regions, listing watersheds, exploring projects and the range of our 20 Fish Habitat Partnerships across the country.

This story map explores conservation projects implemented under the National Fish Habitat Action Plan.

Tentative list of priority issues to be addressed in 2018:

Task A – NFHP website additions

Additions in 2018 are expected to improve partnership pages and connections between The National Fish Habitat Partnership and Beyond the Pond.

Task B - Develop an improved marketing strategy integrating both NFHP and Beyond the Pond

Develop a marketing strategy that integrates both the National Fish Habitat Partnership and Beyond the Pond. This strategy will be intricate in raising awareness of FHP project needs and work to help raise funding to meet FHP needs. Draft strategy will be presented to the Board in March.

Task C - Expand the reach and messaging of the NFHP program within the conservation community.

Support travel and marketing for the National Fish Habitat Partnership to raise awareness of NFHP projects. Deliverables will also include enhancing the National Fish Habitat Partnership assessment and meeting with partners to expand the reach and input into the assessment.

Task D - Improve the Waters to Watch Campaign for the future

Work to improve the Waters to Watch campaign and utilize the campaign as a marketing piece to understand and promote additional project needs for FHPs to raise additional resources.

Task E - Monitor National Fish Habitat Legislation

Work with the NFHP legislative affairs team to identify communications needs to advance the National Fish Habitat Conservation Act.

Task F - Prepare detailed reports regarding Beyond the Pond for the NFHP Board

As Beyond the Pond develops, we will work to keep the National Fish Habitat Board informed of marketing and fundraising developments regarding Beyond the Pond.

Board Book Material: Tab 5b NFHP Legislative Fact Sheet

National Fish Habitat Conservation Through Partnerships Act



Supporting Partnerships for Healthier Fish, Healthier Fish Habitats

More Conservation = More Fish & Fishing

WHAT WILL THE ACT DO?

This national legislation will encourage partnerships among public agencies and other interested parties to promote fish conservation priorities and establish the National Fish Habitat Board to provide oversight to:

- Establish Fish Habitat Partnerships to implement locally-led, on-the-ground conservation practices.
- Make conservation project funding recommendations to the Department of the Interior based on local and strategic fish habitat conservation priorities.
- Continue support of a grant program for fish habitat projects through the USFWS.
- Encourage grassroots driven partnerships to restore, conserve, and enhance fish habitat; improve fisheries and their economic contributions to local communities.

WHY TODAY?

The United States is home to a diverse array of freshwater and marine fish, shellfish, and other aquatic species. More than 3,000 species of fish inhabit America's freshwater and saltwater habitats. The U.S. is also home to more than 300 million people, all depending on the same water that fish depend upon.

Healthy habitats are essential for sustainable fish populations. Unfortunately, in many places across the country, fish and the habitats on which they depend are in decline. In 1997, Congress declared 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 fish habitats.

CONSIDER THIS...

According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's 2011 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife-Associated Recreation, over 33 million licensed anglers generate more than \$46 billion in retail sales with a \$115 billion boost to the nation's economy and creating jobs for more than 828,000 people. At least 60 million anglers fished at some point over the past five years, consider themselves to be anglers, and rely on healthy fish habitat for their recreational pursuits.

Did you know?

The United States has 181,000 square miles of aquatic habitat, an area larger than the State of California (not counting marine waters beyond State boundaries).



**Boone River Watershed
Oxbow Restoration, Iowa**

“Water to Watch” 2012

**National Fish Habitat
Partnership Successes**

> Completed 2010 and 2015 Assessments on Fish Habitat

> Formed 20 Fish Habitat Partnerships covering all 50 states

> Conducted 599 conservation projects in 47 states

> Highlighted 100 key projects through “Waters to Watch” initiative, tracking project progress and improvement

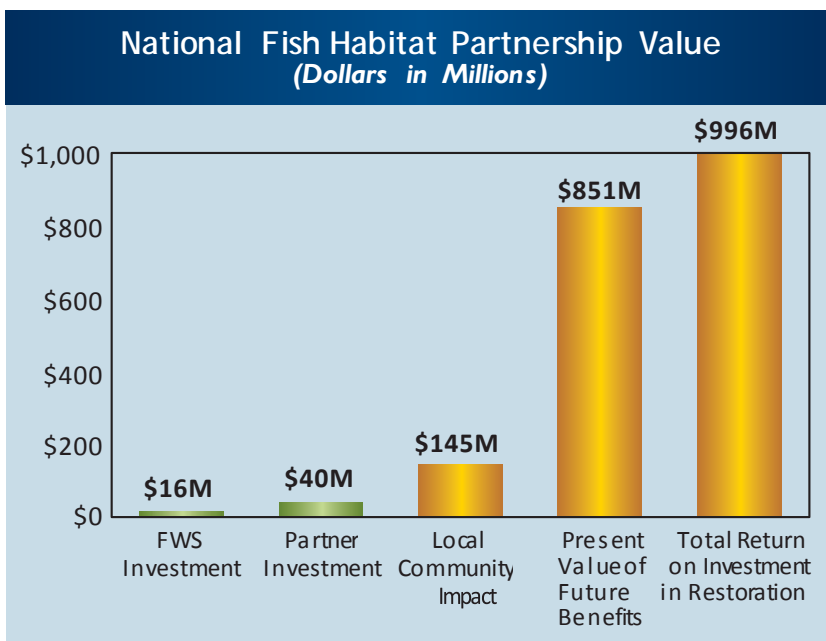
> Created a map and data web tool analyzing conditions of habitat through USGS

> signed MOU implementing the National Fish Habitat Action Plan between the U.S. Departments of the Interior, Commerce and Agriculture in 2012

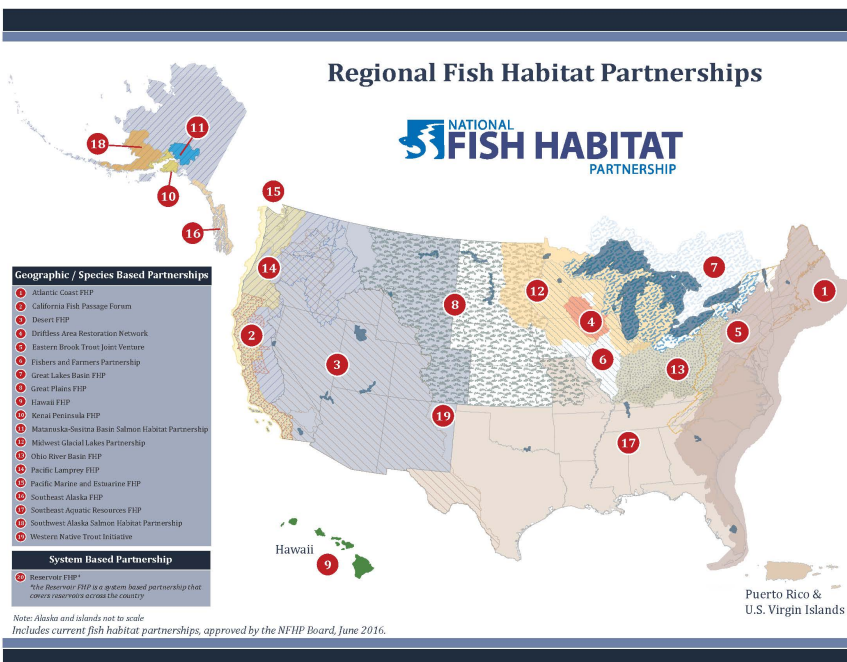
PARTNERSHIP BY THE NUMBERS

- The direct economic value of the National Fish Habitat Partnerships exceeds \$150 million and has created more than 1,100 jobs with the \$34 million invested by the partnerships since 2006.
- The National Fish Habitat Partnership has a perceived long-term value to local communities of \$851.6 million with 19,300 jobs created – projection is based on habitat restored by NFHP to date.

■ Return on investment totals nearly 18:1



PARTNERSHIPS ACROSS THE U.S.



Title: Partnerships Committee 2017-18 Report

Desired outcomes:

- **Board awareness** of Partnerships Committee 2017 accomplishments.
- **Board review and input** on proposed 2018 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.

Members:

Jeff Boxrucker (RFHP)

Tri-Chairs

Doug Boyd (SBPC)

Stan Allen (PSMFC)

Jessica Graham (SARP)

Bryan Moore (TU)

Debbie Hart (SEAK FHP)

Therese Thompson (WNTI)

Lisa Havel (ACFHP)

Heidi Keuler (F&F FHP)

Staff

Ross Melinchuk (TX PWD)

Cecilia Lewis (USFWS)

Joe Nohner (MGLFHP)

Emily Greene (ERT-NMFS)

Steve Perry (EBTJV)

2017 Accomplishments

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

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

At the October 2016 Board meeting a draft Document of Interdependence was presented to the Board. Revisions were suggested at that time, which were subsequently made by the Partnerships Committee. In March of 2017 the draft document was made available for review by FHPs, State and Federal agencies, and other interested parties. Feedback was provided by

the USFWS, NEAFA, and a member of the Board's Science and Data Committee. Some suggestions were editorial in nature, while other suggestions were more substantial. Examples of more substantial suggestions included, clarifying the commitments of Federal agencies, the relationship between this document and existing guidance documents, and the distinction between Themes 7, 8, and 9 and the roles of NFHP entities pertaining to these themes. Many of these revisions were incorporated into the document. On June 28, the Document of Interdependence was approved by the National Fish Habitat Board.

- **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.**

In February, two Board members met with USFWS representatives (via conference call) to provide feedback on 2017 FHP submissions and work through concerns and suggestions. They agreed to follow-up on how the Board provides feedback during the FY18 process (status quo, small group of Board members, other?)

- **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 2016.**

A subgroup made up of members of the Partnerships Committee and interested Board members and staff. Have met by conference call twice in 2017 and made significant progress towards recommending improvements to the FHP Performance Evaluation measure wording and overall process. Review by the Partnerships Committee and Fish Habitat Partnerships is expected in late 2017. The Board will be presented with an update in October, and with recommended revisions for approval in January 2018.

- **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.**

Initial discussions to identify funding sources beyond MSCG began in 2017 and will continue into 2018.

- **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.**

The working group providing revisions to the Performance Evaluation Measure wording and overall evaluation process are considering a revision that will make this evaluation possible by the 2018 Review Team.

- **Priority N: Review current NFHP National Conservation Need and amend as needed.**

Members of the Committee were comfortable with the 2018 NCN that staff had drafted.

2018 Priorities

- Priority A: Complete recommended improvements to the FHP Performance Evaluation measure wording and overall evaluation process for Board approval.
- Priority B: Develop an approach for future Multistate Conservation Grant Program submissions (in collaboration with the Budget and Finance Committee).
- Priority C: Develop strategies for multiple FHPs to jointly submit project proposals to alternative funding sources and programs (in collaboration with the Budget and Finance Committee).
- Priority D: Work with staff to develop purpose and agenda and implement a 2018 Fish Habitat Partnership workshop.

Title: Legislative Update

Desired outcome: Board awareness of and engagement on the National Fish Habitat Conservation Act

Background:

Since the inception of the National Fish Habitat Partnership, a NFHP legislative coalition has been working to craft a legislative proposal that would achieve the goals of the Board and establish an organic statute for the Partnership and the National Fish Habitat Action Plan. The NFHP legislative team 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. Since 2006, this team has worked closely together to advance this legislative proposal – the National Fish Habitat Conservation Act (NFHCA). Previous versions of NFHCA have enjoyed broad bipartisan support in Congress, including bipartisan approval by the Senate Environment and Public Works (EPW) Committee (the Senate Committee of jurisdiction) and the Senate Energy and Natural Resources (ENR) Committee. NFHCA has not been introduced in the House of Representatives since 2009, and instead the legislative team has focused on the Senate as the most likely body in which to advance NFHCA. For several reasons, Congressional approval of NFHCA has been complicated, with leadership shifts, initial concerns about the scope and extent of the program, a general distaste for new federal programs and the cost of the legislation among the primary obstacles.

In recent years, smaller pieces of legislation such as NFHCA are often unsuccessful as stand-alone bills and must move forward on larger legislative packages such as comprehensive energy legislation or public lands packages. For several Congresses now the legislative team has worked to ensure NFHCA language is an integral component of any sportsmen's package. During 2015 and 2016, the NFHP legislative coalition worked actively with Congressional staff from the Senate ENR Committee on the inclusion of NFHCA in S. 659, the Bipartisan Sportsmen's Act. NFHCA language was included in this package thanks largely to the leadership of Senator Lisa Murkowski (R-AK). The Bipartisan Sportsmen's Act was then included in the Senate Energy Bill, which passed the Senate in April 2016 by a vote of 85-12. While companion NFHCA language was not included in the House Energy Bill, Congress ran out of time to rectify differences between the two chambers' Energy Bills during conference negotiations last year. Further, the start of the new Congress required the legislative team to focus once again on reintroduction of NFHCA in this new 115th Congress.

2017 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: With a shift in leadership this Congress at the Senate EPW Committee from Chairman Boxer (D-CA) to Chairman Barrasso (R-WY), the legislative team has recently seen a renewed interest in an EPW Committee-driven sportsmen's package (as compared to last Congress when the Senate ENR Committee ran this package). EPW Committee Chairman Barrasso recently

introduced the HELP for Wildlife Act (S. 1514) which includes strong NFHCA language. Senator Cardin (D-MD), the Ranking Member of the Subcommittee of jurisdiction over NFHCA, has also continued to be one of our strongest NFHCA proponents in recent years and has worked closely with Chairman Barrasso to ensure inclusion of NFHCA in the Committee's sportsmen's package. Similarly, the legislative coalition has received ongoing support for NFHCA from the Senate ENR Committee this year, still under Chairman Murkowski's leadership, as this Committee works to advance their own sportsmen's package. Currently, the Senate ENR Committee sportsmen's package (S. 733) does not include NFHCA language. However, Murkowski staff supports pulling the EPW Committee NFHCA language into a merged sportsmen's package should a pathway become evident for advancing a Senate Energy Bill this Congress.

2018 Priority and Approach:

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

Approach: As the 115th Congress continues to ramp up and the potential grows for a Senate Energy package to move forward that would also include NFHCA language, the NFHP legislative coalition is focusing on educating key Congressional members on the importance of enacting NFHCA this Congress. With the House continuing to show resistance to NFHCA approval, we will need to focus greater attention on House Member outreach and education on fish habitat partnerships and their on-the-ground success.

Title: Multistate Conservation Grant Program Update

Desired outcomes:

- **Board awareness** of 2018 Multi-State Grant Application
- **Board discussion** of Multi-State Conservation Grant approach 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 2018 application marks the last year of that agreement.

The first grant in this 3-year approach was awarded during the 2016 Grant cycle, at \$86,000. The 2017 grant was awarded at \$143,000 and the 2018 grant was awarded at \$209,000. The grant from 2016 is expected to be closed out at the end of 2017. It is expected that NFHP will request a 12 month extension on the funding remaining for the 2017 grant that would extend the grant until December of 2018. The 2018 application funding is expected to be received between January to March of 2018.

The National Conservation Need (NCN) established by the Fisheries and Water Resources Policy Committee and Ocean Resources Policy Committees of AFWA will be reviewed in December and the Board through AFWA should work with the Committees to maintain that support for NFHP.

Timeline for future proposals:

November

The Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (Association) solicits National Conservation Needs (NCNs) from each Association committee and the four Regional Associations of state fish and wildlife agencies.

February

Each committee or Regional Association may submit one proposed NCN. NCNs are due to the MSCGP Coordinator.

March -April

North American Wildlife & Natural Resources Conference

During the North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference, the National Grants Committee convenes to review the proposed NCNs and prepare a list of recommended NCNs for the State Directors' approval.

State Directors approve NCNs during the Association's business meeting at the North American Conference. The selected NCNs establish the states' funding priorities for the upcoming grant cycle.

Staff Recommendation: An approach for the 2019 grant cycle should be discussed at the October 2017 Board meeting. Further discussion will occur with the Budget and Finance Committee,

Partnerships Committee, and FHPs.

Analysis:

Example approaches for consideration include:

- Current Approach: Board applies for funding on behalf of all interested FHPs
Pro: If application is successful, all interested FHPs receive funding.
Con: Amount of funding to each FHPs is limited.

- Individual Fish Habitat Partnership applies for funding on its own
Pro: Successful FHP likely has access to a greater sum of funds (as compared to current approach).
Con: Fewer FHPs are likely to be successful and receive MSCGP funds (as compared to current approach).

- Fish Habitat Partnerships self-group and apply for funding
Pro: Successful groupings of FHPs may have access to a greater sum of funds (as compared current approach).
Con: Potentially fewer FHPs would be successful and receive funds (as compared to the current approach).

Briefing Book Materials:

- Tab 8b – 2018 NFHP Multi-State Grant Proposal

2018 Multistate Conservation Grant Program

Grant Proposal

Executive Summary

(Limit – 2 Pages)

1. **Project Title: Conservation Collaboration across the U.S. 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: Nongovernmental Organization
 - b. Nongovernmental Organization Classification (if applicable): 501(c)6
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 1st 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):**
Gary Whelan, Michigan Department of Natural Resources
Ryan Roberts, National Fish Habitat Board Communications Coordinator
6. **Project Length: (1 year) (Final year of three year application)**
7. **Funding Requested:**
 - a. Total Amount for 2018: \$209,960.00
8. **Estimate of Partnership Funds to be Leveraged (if applicable): \$ 1 Million**
9. **Funding Source.**

Percent WR: _____% Percent SFR: 100%
10. **State Benefit Requirement:** a. X b. X c. X d. ____
11. **Primary National Conservation Need (NCN) Addressed:**

NCN #14: Broadening Conservation Partnerships through 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):

Since 2006, the National Fish Habitat Partnership (Partnership) has supported 679 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. The Fish Habitat Partnerships work through their partner members and also through regional partnerships across the country to utilize grant opportunities such as this one to expand and augment their on-the-ground conservation work to benefit habitat for anglers in the United States. With level federal funding and growing partnerships in numbers and needs, collaboration is necessary through these projects to maximize conservation impacts and success.

Project Narrative

(Limit – 10 Pages)

Title:

Conservation Collaboration across the U.S. through the National Fish Habitat Partnership

Problem Statement:

Waterways, healthy habitat, and thriving fish populations are vital to the well-being of American society, providing clean water, food, and recreation. Healthy waters sustain their ecological functions and resilience while meeting the economic and social needs of 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 too many others who depend upon fish and shellfish for sustenance and commerce. Nearly 40 percent of the nation's freshwater fish species are considered at risk or vulnerable to extinction. Through the efforts of the National Fish Habitat Partnership, established in 2006 our 20 Fish Habitat Partnerships established regionally are collaborating on efforts to stop and reverse declines and impairment of fish habitat through voluntary, non-regulatory efforts.

Project Goals and Objectives

The project goals for this grant application as described in the deliverables section are diverse and designed to meet additional needs and build capacity for the Fish Habitat Partnerships to

achieve their objectives. This grant funding provides resources to the Fish Habitat Partnerships that they otherwise would not have to accomplish strategic objectives, due to current limited funding and growing partnership needs. The number of Board recognized Fish Habitat Partnerships have grown in number over the past several years, but overall funding for the National Fish Habitat Partnership has remained static. This multistate grant funding provides an opportunity for Fish Habitat Partnerships to coordinate shared regional and national conservation priorities, advancing strategic initiatives for fish habitat while catalyzing collaboration across the U.S.

Deliverables and 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 improving fish populations that lead to increased fishing opportunities, fostering the participation of local communities – especially young people – in conservation activities, and raising public awareness of the role healthy fish habitats and robust fisheries 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 the best available scientific information 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:

- Across the United States through the **Reservoir Fish Habitat Partnership**, this grant funding will help provide a Story Map for displaying project information in a geographic context on the Reservoir Fish Habitat Partnership website. Grant funding will also help the partnership produce project summaries for distribution to project partners and states to better inform local communities on existing projects and the potential for future projects. Funding through this grant, will also help incorporate more reservoir and impoundment data sets into development for the National Fish Habitat Assessment.
- **In Hawaii**, The main Hawaiian Islands have over 700 miles of shoreline. A variety of shallow water aquatic habitat types are represented along these coasts, including ancient Hawaiian fishpond structures, semi-enclosed embayments and both groundwater- and

surface water-supported estuaries. This project will continue on-going estuary benthic and littoral habitat surveys to include adjacent coastal habitats that function as nursery habitat and are important for production of coastal fish and invertebrates. Principal project activities will include development of a spatial framework linking watershed characteristics to coastal systems. Results of this work will provide information for prioritizing conservation and management of Hawaiian estuaries and will produce information for revisions for incorporation into the National Fish Habitat Assessment.

- On the Pacific Coast the grant would fund two elements: 1) support for a Coastal Cutthroat Symposium/Proceedings in 2018 to share results from the recent completion of the range-wide assessment for Coastal Cutthroat Trout through the **Western Native Trout Initiative**.

2) Support for a project to monitor small dam removal effectiveness for steelhead trout in Southern California. **California Fish Passage Forum (CFPF), and Western Native Trout Initiative (WNTI)** propose to evaluate the post-removal effects on fish passage and stream habitat following removal of small dams in several drainages in Orange, Los Angeles, and Ventura Counties. All of the dam removals (less than 10 feet in height) completed to date have left in place the associated fill stored behind the dams to minimize riparian disturbance. The work proposed would help document the time it takes for downstream redistribution of the material as well as its effects on the downstream habitat given the flashy nature of southern California streams. To accomplish this work, NOAA/California Conservation Corps Veterans Corps and Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission staff will be used to enhance previous monitoring efforts at 82 dams in the Los Padres National Forest, at Leo Carrillo State Park, and in the Cleveland National Forest. Another aspect of this work is collection of data on the effectiveness and effects of various dam removal techniques. For example, the US Forest Service is removing 80 small dams in Cleveland National Forest to prepare habitat for steelhead pending the removal of the Interstate 5 legacy barrier lower in the watershed. They are principally using explosives for dam removal. This technique is not currently covered in the existing NOAA RC's and CDFW's Fisheries Restoration Grant Program's National Marine Fisheries Service biological opinions and offer an opportunity to gain an understand of a wider range of dam removal methodologies. Monitoring these methods could give us key thresholds for barrier removals to better inform permitting and restoration design.

- In the Great Lakes: The **Midwest Glacial Lakes Partnership's (MGLP)** strategic plan identifies the need to implement a communication strategy to improve fish habitat conservation outcomes through increased awareness, changes in beliefs, and changes in behaviors of people that affect fish habitat. One major threat to fish habitat in Midwest glacial lakes is removal of riparian vegetation, aquatic vegetation, and nearshore large woody debris. This threat is correlated with shoreline residential development, because property owners landscape and clear vegetation from their properties to improve access to the water and perceived aesthetics. They also use environmentally-damaging techniques such as installation of sea walls or impermeable surfaces.

This proposal seeks to improve fish habitat conservation outcomes through increased awareness, changes in beliefs, and changes in behaviors of people that affect fish habitat by developing and delivering outreach materials to shoreline property owners. Outreach materials will provide information on the benefits of natural shorelines for fish habitat, and will market natural shorelines to shoreline property owners. Specifically, photographs of shoreline restorations will be captured and placed in an electronic database available to all Midwest Glacial Lakes Partners to facilitate communication regarding natural shorelines. Photographs will be used to create an ESRI Story Map to tell the stories of a series of shoreline restorations highlighted by the project. Additionally, photographs will be used to develop outreach collateral for natural resource managers, natural shoreline contractors, and other proponents of natural shorelines to increase implementation of natural shoreline practices by private property owners. These outreach materials will expose property owners to the social norm of natural shorelines, increase acceptance of landscaping with native plants, increase retention of large woody habitat, and ultimately increase natural shoreline conservation.

- In the Western U.S. the grant would fund two strategic elements through the **Western Native Trout Initiative (WNTI) and the Desert Fish Habitat Partnership (DFHP)**: 1) Continue the successful multi state grant collaboration between WNTI and DFHP to produce a new film, a 30 second version for social media, and multiple associated outreach materials on two focal native fish species in the intermountain west. Thanks entirely to a 2016 multi state grant, WNTI and DFHP produced the 7 minute film [“Blueheads and Bonneville”](#) about WNTI and DFHP’s collaborative work in the Weber River, Utah, with other partners from the Weber River Partnership. The film serves as our anchor outreach piece for a broader Blueheads and Bonneville campaign celebrating our conservation work on the Weber River and broadening strategic partnerships to complete future projects that are still needed. The film celebrates both fish species, with a focus on themes of water, western landscapes, fish habitat, and the power of partnerships.

2) Support to strengthen strategic partnership development and outreach by working with well-established public, private and non-governmental conservation groups to develop communication, education and outreach materials to help inform potential partners and to increase overall NFHP-based western project awareness and understanding of goals, objectives and accomplishments. More specifically, activities will continue the successful collaboration between WNTI and DFHP to raise awareness about and generate external support and funding for an increased level of conservation actions in nexus basins where WNTI and DFHP focus conservation activities, and to build and strengthen grassroots networks of support by communicating conservation needs and results using new and traditional media and events.
- In the Midwest, **The Driftless Area Restoration Effort** Fish Habitat Partnership has hired a full-time Stream Restoration Specialist (contingent on grant funding) to do long term planning of stream restoration projects with our partners. Additional funding is needed to support this new specialist. This position is available to do all aspects of a

stream restoration project and project planning with partners, surveying, design and oversight of installation, and building the capacity of county conservation field offices to develop their own projects. The Driftless Area recently received two multimillion federal grants to be administered by Trout Unlimited (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 local landowners to do stream restoration in the Driftless Area provided staff are available to design and supervise installation of the projects.

- In the Pacific Northwest: the **Pacific Marine and Estuarine Partnership (PMEP)** will use this grant funding for an important project for native eelgrass, which is widely recognized as valuable habitat for many species of fish, aquatic invertebrates, and waterfowl. Currently, PMEP is compiling a “State of the Knowledge” report on eelgrass habitat across the West Coast. We are reviewing scientific literature about the extent of eelgrass coverage within estuaries, fish use of eelgrass, and other ecosystem services that eelgrass provides. Part of this work is to identify key data gaps for future exploration. With funds from the Multi-state Grant, the PMEP will begin to implement the recommendations outlined in the “State of the Knowledge” report in order to fill data gaps. PMEP will also incorporate all the spatial eelgrass data collected into its broader spatial data management system, allowing experts in the field to access this specific data layer within the broader West Coast wide estuary data framework. This information will be helpful to practitioners along the West Coast working to protect and restore eelgrass habitat or who are planning future studies.
- Through three partnerships in the Northeast, the **Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture, the Atlantic Coastal Fish Habitat Partnership and the Southeast Aquatic Resources Partnership**, the grant funding will be used to continue a multi-year collaborative focus on whitewater to bluewater fish habitat connectivity needs that span the geographic boundaries of these three Eastern Fish Habitat Partnerships. The primary objectives of this coordinated effort is to finalize a tiered listing of priority drainages and to institute a coordinated process among the Eastern Fish Habitat Partnerships to address fish habitat connectivity issues within these focal areas.
- This grant will also provide **staff and Board support for the National Fish Habitat Partnership** through activities that highlight the National Fish Habitat Partnership program. Activities include support of national meetings in 2018, meeting sponsorship and involvement, as well as supporting communications efforts for 2018, including producing videos and Board member testimonials regarding their involvement in the Partnership effort. This funding request will also support communication activities to continue promoting the 2015 National Fish Habitat Assessment Report and help fill current completion gaps for the NFHP Science and Data Committee.

Monitoring and Evaluation

All of the Fish Habitat Partnerships conduct regular short and long-term monitoring for on-the-ground projects that are implemented through this grant program. Reports are also provided to the National Fish Habitat Board throughout the year and updates regarding the grant are provided to relevant AFWA committees.

Experience

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. Since 2006, the Partnership has supported nearly 700 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.

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 National Fish Habitat Partnership (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 National Fish Habitat Partnership: 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

Budget Reflects indirect cost rate of 20%

	Fish Habitat Partnerships	MSCGP	P.F.*	Total
AFWA	Program Support	\$24,000.00		\$24,000.00
Eastern U.S.	Atlantic Coastal FHP, Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture, Southeast Aquatic Resources Partnership	\$36,000.00		\$36,000.00
Western U.S.	Desert FHP Western Native Trout Initiative	\$18,000.00		\$18,000.00
Midwest U.S.	Driftless Area Restoration Effort	\$16,000.00		\$16,000.00
Great Lakes	Midwest Glacial Lakes Partnership	\$18,000.00		\$18,000.00
U.S.	Reservoir Fish Habitat Partnership	\$20,000.00		\$20,000.00
California	California Fish Passage Forum Western Native Trout Initiative	\$16,000.00		\$16,000.00
Hawaii	Hawaii Fish Habitat Partnership	\$16,000.00		\$16,000.00

Pacific NW	Pacific Marine and Estuarine Partnership	\$12,800.00		\$12,800.00
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Budget Breakdown

Total request = \$209,960.00

Travel	12,000.00
Supplies	12,000.00
Contract	152,800.00
Total	176,800.00
Indirect	33,160.00
Grand Total	\$209,960.00

Total MSCGP for the 1 year project is \$209,960.00; Total complimentary partnership funds for the 1 year project are \$1,000,000.

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 35 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, oversees the Fish Health Program, and provides direct support to and manages components of the Habitat Management Unit. His fisheries career has spanned over 34 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://www.fishhabitat.org/about/staff-board/>

Title: Beyond the Pond Update

Desired Outcome:

- **Board awareness** of fundraising and marketing progress to date.
- **Board awareness** of SEAK FHP Campaign

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. In 2016, a website was launched: <http://beyondthepondusa.com/>, along with securing a trademark, developing a fact sheet, and creation of an Amazon Smile account.

Update:

RepYourWater

In September 2017, Beyond the Pond launched a marketing partnership with [RepYourWater](#). Beyond the Pond will be the beneficiary of 1% of sales of all RepYourWater products with Wisconsin, Iowa, Illinois and Driftless Area designs. You will notice that Beyond the Pond is listed on the conservation partners tab of the RepYourWater website and has a [page](#) on the site dedicated to this effort. Driftless Area products will be made available for public sale in mid-October. The value of this relationship is huge for marketing as RepYourWater has a huge audience with a large portion being millennials as noted in the list below.

Social media presence:

- Facebook – Nearly 28,000 followers
- Twitter – Nearly 3,000 followers
- Instagram – 111,000 followers

There will be great opportunities for cross marketing with RepYourWater and Beyond the Pond with this campaign.

Southeast Alaska FHP Campaign

Over this last year the Southeast Alaska FHP has been working to leverage financial resources to help implement the partnership's first fish passage project initiative - The Tongass Top 5. The goal: leverage resources to design fish passage sites to a 'shovel ready' state and ultimately develop a plan to restore these remaining high priority sites for improved fish passage.

Earlier this year SEAKFHP received a \$100K NFWF grant to help support our effort and our partners (USFS, USFWS, TNC and TU) all stepped up to contribute additional funds to help match this grant. In addition, the USFS and USFWS are actively working now to utilize these funds to develop 5 fish passage designs on the Tongass.

As part of the NFWF grant award SEAKFHP committed to soliciting an additional \$40K in match funds for this effort, to be used for additional designs or assistance with implementation. We are using the NFHP Beyond the Pond non-profit, and our associated chapter status to help raise these funds. As a result of this collaboration we can raise these funds and provide a tax deductible incentive for any donations received for this project.

Donations can be made directly to the initiative at:

<https://secure.processdonation.org/beyondthepondusa/Donation.aspx?causeid=821>

Board Book Material:

- Tab 9b_Tongass Top 5 Outreach Material_draft

TONGASS top 5

Barrier road culvert



Fish-friendly road culvert



“...building better culverts to open waterways for fish to grow, reproduce and survive, to improve the resiliency of roads to flooding, and to protect transportation infrastructure for communities
—Celebrating 1000 Culverts, Washington D.C. 2016

Many culverts cause big problems for fish. Migratory fish—like salmon and steelhead—need room to move and are particularly hard hit by barriers where roads cross streams.

Designing fish-friendly crossings where roads intersect streams helps ensure a seamless transition for fish passing underneath. Across the nation, the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and many partners have come together to improve fish passage under roads: in 2016, the U.S. Forest Service celebrated over 1000 fish passage projects completed nationally.

This effort has been deeply embraced in Alaska across the Tongass National Forest. Between 1998 and 2015, over 500 crossings not previously meeting fish passage standards were improved.

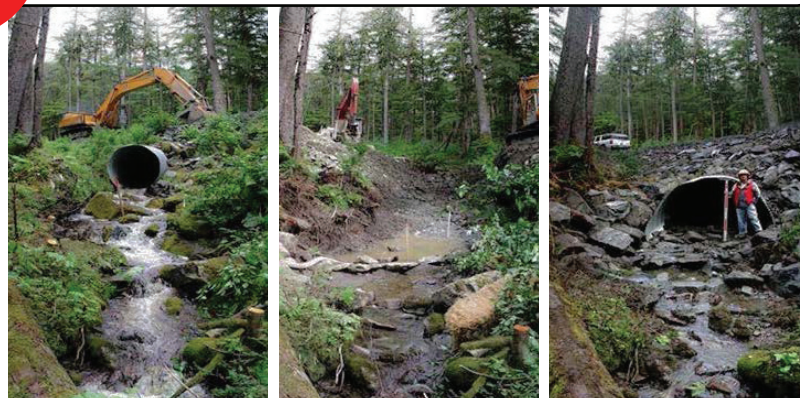
In spite of this good work, it is estimated that a third of remaining assessed road-stream crossings in the Tongass do not currently meet fish passage standards. To address this need, the U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Trout Unlimited, The Nature Conservancy, and Southeast Alaska Fish Habitat Partnership have teamed up to develop the TONGASS TOP 5. The goal: design fish passage sites to a ‘shovel ready’ state and ultimately develop a plan to restore these remaining high priority sites for improved fish passage.

*Your help can make a difference
for fish in the Tongass!*

\$100K

**\$140K
Goal**

[Click to Donate!](#)



Time series of culvert replacement for fish passage (USFS TNF Monitoring and Evaluation Report).

For more information, contact:

Deborah Hart, SEAKFHP Coordinator
907-723-0258 / coordinator@sealaskafishhabitat.org
Make a direct tax-deductable donation for this effort [here](#)



SOUTHEAST ALASKA
FISH HABITAT
PARTNERSHIP



The Nature
Conservancy



Title: 8th World Recreational Fishing Conference (WRFC8)

Desired outcome(s):

- **Board awareness** of NFHP WRFC8 presentations and discussions
- **Board approval** of NFHP staff and/or Board leadership participation in an international habitat information sharing forum

Background:

The 8th World Recreational Fishing Conference was held July 16-20, 2017 in Victoria, B.C., Canada. The conference was developed to unite the global recreational fishing community to discuss current research. There were 8 sessions and 3 symposiums spanning topics from genetic and genomic applications towards improved management practices in recreational fisheries; to management strategies, policy development and governance; and social and economic values of recreational fisheries. One session and one symposium included presentations with a NFHP presence:

The National Fish Habitat Partnership Program Celebrates 10 Years of Success (Robin Knox), which provided an overview of the origin, mission, and outcomes of the program, in addition to specific information on the Western Native Trout Initiative. This presentation fell within a session entitled, “Management Strategies, Policy Development, and Governance”.

Advancing Fish Habitat Conservation Through Collaboration to Strengthen Recreational Fisheries (Emily Greene), which highlighted a few of the major actions the Office of Habitat has undertaken in support of the National Saltwater Recreational Fisheries Policy including NOAA’s participation in the National Fish Habitat Partnership.

The latter presentation was held within an all-day symposium focused on recreational anglers driving fish habitat outcomes, which provided an opportunity for habitat conservation practitioners from across the world to exchange information on partnering with the recreational fishing community, including Australia, the United Kingdom, and the Bahamas. The symposium was organized by Craig Copeland of New South Wales, Australia, who has proposed the creation of an international habitat information sharing forum based on WRFC8 conference attendees with the following draft goals:

- 1 - Share information on initiatives and programs; things that work and things that don’t
- 2 - Seek information or contacts or ideas to help resolve those intractable problems we all face
- 3 - Provide opportunities for professional development (trips, meetings, site inspections, conferences) to colleagues visiting our respective countries (or at least fishing buddies).
- 4 - Develop either an international forum focused on recreational fishers and fish habitat or a series of video conferences on selected habitat topics as required or requested (or both)

Briefing Book Materials:

Tab 10b Symposium III: Recreational Fishers Driving Fish Habitat Outcomes

8th World Recreational Fishing Conference July 16-20, 2017
Victoria, B.C., Canada

Symposium III: Recreational Fishers Driving Fish Habitat Outcomes
Tuesday, July 18, 2017

Organizer: Craig Copeland, Aquatic Habitat Rehabilitation, Wollongbar, New South Wales, Australia

Freshwater and coastal fish stocks support large recreational fisheries, providing considerable social and economic benefits to both regional and national economies. While harvest by recreational fisheries can impact fish, the main threats to the fisheries targeted by recreational fishers are primarily due to habitat degradation. Progressively, governments, and more importantly recreational fishers, are increasing efforts to rehabilitate and restore fish habitat structure and function. This session will explore the following: types of activities undertaken by recreational fishers either as volunteers or in supporting recreational fishing organisations; fish outcomes from habitat work by recreational fishers; how fishers are getting engaged in this type of work, and the potential role of citizen science; partnerships with government and conservation groups; telling the story of great outcomes driven by fishers.
Session

Presenter Name, Title of Talk, and Abstract #:

Abstracts for the symposium can be found at: <http://wrfc8.com/PDFs/WRFC/Abstracts-Symposium-III-Recreational-Fishers-Driv.aspx>

R. Masonis. Harnessing the Passion of Recreational Anglers to Conserve Fish Habitat: Lessons from the Western United States **K1**

C. Copeland. Recreational Fisher Action on Habitat Issues in Australia **K2**

M. Hansen. Recreational Fishers Leading Fish Habitat Rehabilitation in the Macquarie River, NSW **K3**

M. Salter. Successful Angler Engagement in Conservation Projects and Partnerships – The UK Experience **K4**

C. Byrne. The Role of Recreational Fishers and Other Community Interests in the Successful Implementation of Ireland's National Strategy For Angling Development **K5**

M. Morrissette. Fish Habitat Restorations Accomplished Throughout the Recreational Fisheries Conservation Partnerships Program **K6**

E. Greene. Opportunities to Advance Habitat Conservation Through Collaboration to Strengthen Recreational Fisheries **K7**

P. Askey. Penticton Creek Restoration Initiative **K8**

J. Lewis. Conservation NGOs as the Link Between Management and Stakeholders for a Recreational Fishery: A Case Study in the Bahamas **K9**

R. Winstanley. Angler-Inspired Shellfish Reef Restoration Work in Australia **K10**

J. Florisson. The Development of Habitat Enhancement Structures in Western Australia – Outcomes For the World **K11**

K. Esseltine. The Millstone River Coho Salmon Restoration Project **K12**

B. Diggles. Restoring Shellfish Reefs in Pumicestone Passage – Anglers and Community Working Together for Fish Habitat **K13**

D. Fennell. Sustainability Initiatives of Fly Fishing Lodges **K14**

Title: 2018 Board Priorities

Desired outcome: Board understanding of proposed 2018 Priorities with consideration of the budget.

No Funding Needed or Funding Provided

Priority A: Complete recommended improvements to the FHP Performance Evaluation measure wording and overall evaluation process for Board approval.

Priority B: Develop an approach for future Multistate Conservation Grant Program submissions.

Priority C: Develop strategies for multiple FHPs to jointly submit project proposals to alternative funding sources and programs.

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

Priority E: NFHP website additions

Task F: Develop an improved marketing strategy integrating both NFHP and Beyond the Pond

Priority G: Expand the reach and messaging of the NFHP program within the conservation community.

Priority H: Improve the Waters to Watch Campaign for the future

Priority I: Monitor National Fish Habitat Legislation

Priority J: Prepare detailed reports regarding Beyond the Pond for the NFHP Board

Priority K: Continue Outreach Efforts on the 2015 Assessment Products

Partially Funded

Priority L: Science and Data Committee Operations (\$12,000 of 27,000)

Unfunded

Priority M: Work with staff to develop purpose and agenda and implement a 2018 Fish Habitat Partnership workshop.

Priority N: Planning and Initiation of Future Assessment Work. (\$156k for Inland Assessment, \$50k for Coastal Assessment)

Priority O: Continue work to complete the NFHP Project Tracking Database (\$20,000)

Priority P: Maintain and improve the NFHP Data System (USGS Inkind support)

National Fish Habitat Board
DRAFT 2018 Budget

REVENUES						
	AFWA/FWS Coop (4500)	Other - (FWS)	MSCG - FHP Coordination (4584)	MSCG - FHP Coordination (4585)	Old NFWF Contributions - (4520)	TOTAL
Income	\$ 115,000			\$ 209,960		\$ 324,960
Carryover	\$ -		\$ 95,000		\$ 11,097	\$ 106,097
SUBTOTAL	\$ 115,000	\$ -	\$ 95,000	\$ 209,960	\$ 11,097	\$ 431,057
EXPENSES						
Coordination of Board and FHPs						
Travel - Board functions						\$ -
Contractual to FHPs			\$ (50,000)	\$ (152,800)		\$ (202,800)
SUBTOTAL	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (50,000)	\$ (152,800)	\$ -	\$ (202,800)
Communications						
Salaries and Benefits	\$ (86,833)		\$ (18,167)			\$ (105,000)
Awards			\$ (1,500)			\$ (1,500)
Annual Report			\$ (1,500)			\$ (1,500)
Communications Products						\$ -
Telephone	\$ (2,400)					\$ (2,400)
Travel - Communications Coordinator	\$ (1,318)		\$ (8,000)	\$ (12,000)		\$ (21,318)
SUBTOTAL	\$ (90,551)	\$ -	\$ (29,167)	\$ (12,000)	\$ -	\$ (131,718)
Science & Data						
Priority L: Science and Data Committee Operations (Chair Travel)				\$ (12,000)		\$ (12,000)
SUBTOTAL	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (12,000)	\$ -	\$ (12,000)
TOTAL DIRECT	\$ (90,551)	\$ -	\$ (79,167)	\$ (176,800)	\$ -	\$ (346,518)
IDC	\$ (24,449)		\$ (15,833)	\$ (33,160)	\$ -	\$ (73,442)
TOTAL INDIRECT	\$ (24,449)	\$ -	\$ (15,833)	\$ (33,160)	\$ -	\$ (73,442)
NET	\$ 0	\$ -	\$ (0)	\$ 0	\$ 11,097	\$ 11,097

KEY:

cells with green borders indicate DISCRETIONARY FUNDS

EXPENSES OUTSIDE THIS BUDGET						
Priority M: Work with staff to develop purpose and agenda and implement a 2018 Fish Habitat Partnership workshop.						\$ 15,000
Priority N: Planning and Initiation of Future Assessment Work.						\$ 206,000
Priority O: Continue work to complete the NFHP Project Tracking Database						\$ 20,000
Priority P: Maintain and improve the NFHP Data System						Inkind - TBD
Priority L: Science and Data Committee Operations (Committee Meeting)						\$ 15,000



U.S. Forest Service

UPDATE ON NATIONAL FISH & AQUATIC STRATEGY

Contact: Dan Shively, National Fisheries Program Leader
Phone: 202-205-0951
Email: dshively@fs.fed.us

Summary/Key Points:

- Updated Strategy – The Forest Service’s Rise to the Future: National Fish and Aquatic Strategy updates its 30-year old strategy building on successes and lessons learned working with cooperators and partners – many whom were involved in updating the strategy including the sportfishing industry, state fish and wildlife agencies, and tribal governments (see attachment).
- National Fish Habitat Partnership (NFHP) Participation – The Forest Service is very grateful for the input and feedback provided on the May 5th draft strategy. NFHP suggestions were very helpful and used in refining the strategy further. As requested, NFHP has been added as a contributor to the strategy and will be key to working with the Forest Service during its implementation.
- Need for Update – The strategy needs to be updated to: (1) better meet both recreational fishing and infrastructure needs of the American people, (2) strengthen working relations and commitments to the sportfishing community and States, (3) better align programs and actions related to fish and aquatic stewardship across all parts of the agency, and (4) to adequately address social, economic, ecological, and scientific developments and needs that have emerged within the past 30 years.
- Implementation through Partnerships – The strategy relies heavily on increased cooperation with state fish and wildlife agencies, tribal governments, and other federal agencies and increased partnering with nongovernmental organizations, private landowners and water users, the private sector, and others. A key focus is to enhance delivery of recreational fishing access and other aquatic recreational activities to connect youth and adults to the outdoors and make needed infrastructure improvements (i.e., aquatic organism passage) providing jobs and economic benefits for Americans in rural communities. The strategy builds on public-private partnerships and promotes enhanced delivery of watershed restoration for strategic stewardship of fish and aquatic resources.
- Goals – The strategy’s goals are: (1) Conserve and restore fish and aquatic resources, (2) Connect people to the outdoors through fishing, boating, and other aquatic activities, (3) Strengthen partnerships and work across boundaries, (4) Deliver and apply scientific research, (5) Build capacity through mentoring and training, and (6) Communicate the value and benefits of fish and aquatic resources.
- Strategy Development – A team of nearly 60 participants helped develop the strategy. Participants included some of the Forest Service’s partners as well as staff from all levels and branches of the agency.
- Strategy Review – The strategy was informally distributed for review in early May. Nearly 50 comments were received (2/3 internal, 1/3 external) and were highly supportive, with a high level of praise from external partners acknowledging the agency for its leadership and important role in stewarding the Nation’s fish and aquatic resources. Major comments, primarily seeking clarification and greater specificity, were summarized. The strategy was refined further based on these comments and a final draft further reviewed by key constituents to ensure broad support for rollout.

Planned Next Steps: Continue internal briefings as needed with the Chief’s Office and at USDA to prepare for planned release of the strategy in mid-November. A full rollout strategy is being developed.

Attachment – List of External Partners and Organizations that Participated in Development of the Strategy or Provided Input through Reviews or Other Means

The following external partners and organizations either participated in development of the Forest Service's National Fish and Aquatic Strategy or provided input through reviews or during other means such as presentations and webinars.

- American Fisheries Society (participant in strategy)
- American Sportfishing Association (participant in strategy)
- Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies – including state fish and wildlife management agency Fish Chiefs and Directors (participants in strategy)
- Bureau of Land Management
- Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation
- Future Angler Foundation
- National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (participant in strategy)
- National Fish Habitat Partnership
- Native American Fish and Wildlife Society
- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- NatureServe
- NOAA Fisheries
- North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference, Fisheries Committee
- Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation (participant in strategy)
- The Nature Conservancy (participant in strategy)
- The Wilderness Society (participant in strategy)
- Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership
- Trout Unlimited (participant in strategy)
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- U.S. Geological Survey
- United Southern and Eastern Tribes
- Urban American Outdoors
- Western States Water Council
- Wild Earth Guardians
- Wildlife Forever



RISE TO THE FUTURE: NATIONAL FISH AND AQUATIC STRATEGY

An Overview

Why does the Forest Service need an updated national fish & aquatic strategy?

- ▶ The Forest Service is responsible for managing some of the best, and in some cases, only habitat for many valuable and culturally important fish and aquatic resources, including more than 50% of the remaining U.S. habitat for federally-listed freshwater fish, mussels, and amphibians.
- ▶ Fishing, boating, and other aquatic activities afford economic, social, and cultural benefits to communities across the nation. The Agency's sustainable, long-term approach to managing healthy watersheds and aquatic habitat supports vital recreational and commercial economies, providing many benefits to local communities, downstream cities, and the public.
- ▶ The Forest Service increasingly recognizes the importance of working with our many federal, state, tribal, private, and non-governmental partners to restore habitat, improve watersheds, conduct research, and serve the public.
- ▶ In the 30 years since the inception of Rise to the Future, there have been changes in the Forest Service and in the conservation community's understanding of the threats and stressors that need to be addressed to achieve successful fish conservation outcomes. This updated strategy provides a vision of how the Forest Service will contribute to fish and aquatic stewardship in close collaboration with its partners.

Over 220,000 miles of rivers and streams and over 10 million acres of lakes, reservoirs, and ponds on national forests and grasslands provide a wide range of fishing opportunities for the American people.

Millions of people fish on national forests and grasslands, resulting in more than \$2.2 billion of economic activity each year. National forests in Alaska support a world-renowned, billion-dollar commercial salmon industry, as well as culturally important subsistence fisheries.

Who built the updated strategy? A team of nearly 60 participants across the agency with representatives from the American Fisheries Society, American Sportfishing Association, Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, National Fish Habitat Partnership, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation, The Nature Conservancy, The Wilderness Society, and Trout Unlimited developed this update to the Forest Service National Fish & Aquatic Strategy.

What is the strategy? The updated strategy contains six priority goals:

1. Conserve fish and aquatic resources.
2. Connect people to the outdoors through fishing, boating, and other aquatic activities.
3. Strengthen partnerships and work across boundaries.
4. Deliver and apply scientific research.
5. Build capacity through mentoring and training.
6. Communicate the value and benefits of fish and aquatic resources.

Each goal contains multiple objectives, providing a long-term foundation to address current and future challenges, including invasive species; impacts from drought, floods, and other extreme weather events;



Connecting communities and youth to the outdoors is an agency priority

Source: Freshwaters Illustrated



Public fishing access provides cherished family time and a multi-billion dollar economy.

Source: S. Dingman, San Juan National Forest



Working with partners to restore habitat for aquatic species, recreation, and water quality is an economic driver in rural communities.

Source: Salmon-Challis National Forest



Fish your national forests!

Source: Trout Unlimited



Fish and aquatic resources on the national forests and grasslands have tremendous economic value.

Source: Ron Medel, USFS, Tongass National Forest



Science is the foundation for collaborative fish & aquatic stewardship.

Source: U.S.F.S. Center for Aquatic Technology Transfer

and increasing public demands on natural resources. The goals and objectives contained in this strategy will better enable the Forest Service to take advantage of new opportunities such as emerging research technologies and innovative and nontraditional partnerships.

High Priority Action Items

Eight actions are highlighted as near-term priorities to focus implementation of the strategy. The Forest Service will work in cooperation with States, especially State fish and wildlife agencies, other federal agencies, and tribal governments and in partnership with nongovernmental organizations, private businesses, landowners and others to implement these near-term priorities. Each action is associated with a clear deliverable and timeframe.

1. Increase the number of youth and adults connecting to the outdoors through recreational fishing and other aquatic activities by 50 percent, from fiscal year 2017 levels, by 2023.
2. Increase partnerships with states, other federal agencies, tribal governments, water providers, corporations, and multistakeholder groups that result in meaningful fish and aquatic stewardship outcomes with multiple benefits by 20%, from fiscal year 2017 levels, by 2023.
3. Identify barriers to increasing recreational fishing participation and identify high-priority actions that will yield the greatest increase in participation by 2019.
4. Develop a coarse-scale national assessment of aquatic biodiversity by 2019.
5. Develop criteria for identifying “conservation watersheds” for fish and aquatic species on national forests and grasslands. Select conservation watersheds by 2020. Update list as needed.
6. Conduct and distribute a national fish and aquatic ecology research needs assessment by 2019.
7. Develop business practices and protocols for effective mentoring of fisheries biologists and aquatic ecologists by 2018.
8. Work with experts to develop and implement a communications and outreach plan by 2018.